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Joint Inspection Unit

Comprehensive review of United Nations system support for small island developing States: final findings

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the General Assembly the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Comprehensive review of United Nations system support for small island developing States: final findings".

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JIU/REP/2016/7

COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM SUPPORT FOR SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES: FINAL FINDINGS

Prepared by

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Joint Inspection Unit

Geneva 2016

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Comprehensive review of United Nations system support for small island developing States: final findings

JIU/REP/2016/7

The report contains the final findings of the comprehensive review mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 69/288. It addresses the scope of recommendations 1, 5 and 6 contained in the report entitled "Recommendations to the General Assembly of the United Nations for the determination of parameters for a comprehensive review of United Nations system support for small island developing States" (JIU/REP/2015/2) related to:

- System-wide coherence in United Nations system work in support of small island developing States (SIDS) to implement the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, taking into account its linkages with other global mandates;
- Institutional set-up and coordination for monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway;
- Institutional and managerial mechanisms of coordination between the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS).

The findings of the report build on the information collected during the field missions in the following small island developing States: Barbados, Fiji, Mauritius, Samoa and Trinidad and Tobago. The team also visited Panama, a regional hub of United Nations system organizations, as well as Geneva-based organizations and United Nations Headquarters in New York.

Main findings

System-wide coherence in implementing the SAMOA Pathway within the context of other global mandates for sustainable development

(Recommendations 1 to 6 in chapter II)

The report assesses the system-wide coherence of the United Nations system support in implementing the SAMOA Pathway within the context of other relevant global mandates, with emphasis on the linkages with the overarching objective of sustainable development, following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (General Assembly resolution 70/1). The priority areas as identified in the SAMOA Pathway (General Assembly resolution 69/15), the blueprint agenda for sustainable development of SIDS, entail linkages with many other global mandates that are consistently addressed as transversal issues in "delivering as one" in the field.

The coordinated planning of United Nations system organizations in SIDS has led to increased efficiency in the use of shared resources, taking advantage of joint delivery on activities that are closely related. Addressing climate change and disaster risk reduction in joint projects in Mauritius, health-related issues such as non-communicable diseases and

poverty reduction in Fiji, and education, young people and the environment in Samoa are examples of increased coherence in designing and delivering United Nations system support to SIDS, in line with their national priorities.

Access to financing for development and capacity-building are critical means of implementation for SIDS to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (General Assembly resolution 69/313) calls for support in facilitating access to countries with special needs, to which SIDS belong. The issue of access to financing for upper-middle income and high-income countries has been raised during the research, indicating that the current eligibility criteria for financing for development are not always suitable for the specific needs of SIDS. The present report calls for a revision of the eligibility criteria to soften the conditions for these States to receive concessional funding through fast-track procedures. The revised criteria should take into account the specific economic and environmental vulnerability of SIDS, so that international financial institutions, regional development banks and bilateral donors could use eligibility categories based on vulnerability. The work of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development, convened by the Secretary-General in accordance with resolution 69/313 and involving more than 50 organizations, including the United Nations system organizations and the international financing institutions, should be instrumental in progressing towards an agreed definition of the eligibility criteria to foster sustainable development of SIDS.

Capacity-building is one of the preconditions to facilitate national empowerment in acquiring the necessary skills to design and implement sustainable development strategies at the national level. The role of the organizations is to share their expertise and advisory services with SIDS in order to ensure mainstreaming of know-how at the national and regional levels. The local authorities and other stakeholders should channel and disseminate these tools so that they can be replicated and leveraged at the national level within the business sector, the education sector and civil society.

Institutional set-up for monitoring and accountability

(Recommendations 7 and 8 in chapter III)

Monitoring and accountability are referred to in paragraphs 122 to 124 of the SAMOA Pathway as an essential element to ensure the realization of a transformational strategy for the sustainable development of SIDS. In chapter III, the present report addresses the linkages among the different elements of monitoring and accountability frameworks that are being defined in the context of the sustainable development agenda within the United Nations system, related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

During its meeting with government officials of SIDS, including the Prime Minister of Samoa, the JIU team was informed of the ongoing efforts at the national level to align reporting processes to minimize the burden of multiple reporting. In Barbados, Mauritius and Samoa, significant progress has been made, through integrated planning frameworks, in addressing the measurement of the implementation of their national development strategies in relation to the SAMOA Pathway, the 2030 Agenda and, in the case of the Pacific and the Caribbean, in line with the regional frameworks established by the political leaders (the Pacific Islands Forum and the Caribbean Community).

The United Nations system organizations that are "delivering as one" in the field under the guidance of the resident coordinator system and the United Nations Development Group (UNDG), are strengthening their support aimed at better alignment with regional and

national priorities defined by SIDS themselves, through the consultations held on defining the United Nations multi-country strategies (in the Caribbean and in the Pacific). Guidelines to ensure more coherence in reporting to lower the burden of monitoring at the country level are provided by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNDG.

Good practices in organizations such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) could be shared with other organizations of the United Nations system that have not yet designed specific objectives or indicators to measure the achievements of their work for the specific group of SIDS. These efforts strengthen coherence and create national and regional ownership, as shown by the recent endorsement of the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific: An Integrated Approach to Address Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management by the Pacific Leaders during the 47th Pacific Islands Forum meeting in the Federated States of Micronesia in September 2016. The Framework for 2017-2030 is an example of an integrated approach to implementing and monitoring several global mandates within a single framework aligned with the 2030 Agenda (General Assembly resolution 70/1), the Sendai Framework (General Assembly resolution 69/313) and the Paris Agreement (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, decision 1/CP.21).

At the global level, the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, with the support of independent advisory teams, taking into account the outcomes of the sessions of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, are defining the monitoring and accountability framework to follow up on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and other closely related mandates essential to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The findings of the present review call for specific attention to be paid to the reporting processes through which SIDS have to report and contribute in providing information about progress and accomplishments. The limited capacity of these States in terms of available data for establishing baselines and human resources to coordinate the information and feed it into the reporting processes is a constraint that should be taken into account in defining the monitoring and accountability frameworks for sustainable development. Furthermore, efforts should be made to design the different reporting processes in a way that facilitates the participation of SIDS. This is addressed by recommendation 7 of the present report, which calls for consideration of the specificity of SIDS in defining the elements of the monitoring and accountability frameworks to which they will have to contribute. The role of the follow-up and review framework of the 2030 Agenda, developed by the United Nations regional commissions, should also be connected to the overall monitoring and accountability framework to report on the contribution of the United Nations system work for the sustainable development of SIDS.

Management and coordination between the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

(Recommendation 9)

The assessment of the coordination between the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Office of the High Representative in their work in support of SIDS has been one of the areas evolving in parallel with the advancement of the preparation of the comprehensive

review. Chapter IV of the present report updates the information provided in the previous reports on SIDS (JIU/REP/2015/2 and JIU/REP/2016/3). The Inspector notes that while the preparation of the report was progressing, DESA and OHRLLS took the following steps to coordinate their support to SIDS, in response to the recommendations contained in those two reports:

- Establishment of regular lines of communication at the level of the directors in order to ensure better coordination and planning of their work in support of SIDS;
- Alternate chairing of the meetings of the Inter-Agency Consultative Group on Small Island Developing States;
- Joint preparation of side events at global conferences, such as the second session of the United Nations Environmental Assembly and the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III);
- Collaboration and co-financing of activities developed in support of SIDS, such as the Aruba Conference on Public-Private Partnerships;
- Joint support to the steering committee on partnerships for SIDS in close collaboration, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 70/202;
- Joint invitations co-signed by their heads when organizing events calling for SIDS participation;
- Harmonization of a common list of small island developing States with transparent criteria for the definition. DESA and OHRLLS have agreed on a common list of 57 SIDS. In addition, the OHRLLS list includes Bahrain.

The Inspector encourages the SIDS units of DESA and OHRLLS to keep up that momentum and consolidate their collaboration efforts. The harmonization of the groups of SIDS will facilitate a more coherent approach from the Secretariat to providing targeted support to SIDS.

Communication with Member States and other relevant partners in development for SIDS has improved through the launch by DESA in April 2016 of the newsletter on SIDS. It provides updates on progress in SAMOA Pathway and SIDS issues, with inputs coming from DESA, OHRLLS and the members of the Inter-Agency Consultative Group on Small Island Developing States, among others. However, the Inspector is of the view that further efforts are necessary to establish more frequent communication with Member States at Headquarters, in particular with members of the Alliance of Small Island States, as expressed by their representatives. Member States have not been provided with updated information on the programme of work of the Inter-Agency Consultative Group on Small Island Developing States and on the criteria for its membership. There is room for improvement to develop a more interactive relationship between the SIDS units of the Secretariat and Member States.

The present report contains nine recommendations, seven of which are addressed to governing bodies, one to all executive heads and one to the Secretary-General. The implementation of the recommendations should contribute to strengthening the system-wide coherence and effectiveness of the United Nations work in support of SIDS.

Recommendations

Recommendation 1

The governing bodies of the United Nations system and of the multilateral environment agreements, taking into account the findings of the comprehensive review, should give precise system-wide coordinated guidance to the organizations so as to ensure that the priorities of the SAMOA Pathway are mainstreamed in the strategic plans, within the realm of the organizations' mandates, and should encourage all stakeholders to make sufficient and predictable resources available for the effective and accelerated implementation of the Pathway.

Recommendation 2

The governing bodies of the United Nations system should ensure that the strategic plans and work programmes of the system organizations include specific objectives related to the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, within the realm of their respective mandates, to be measured against a set of established key performance indicators to monitor and report on the achievements.

Recommendation 3

The governing bodies of the United Nations system, in adopting the strategic plans and work programmes of the organizations, should encourage the organizations to ensure that the activities in support of sustainable development of SIDS, within the realm of the mandate of each organization, are aligned with the regional and national priorities identified by the Governments of those States, regional organizations and SIDS development partners, so as to foster the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway as the blueprint of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of SIDS.

Recommendation 4

The governing bodies of the United Nations system should request the organizations to coordinate the planning and implementation of their capacity-building activities in close consultation with the small island developing States and all partners for development so as to strengthen effectiveness and efficiency in providing support to achieve the goals defined in the SAMOA Pathway, while avoiding saturation of the absorptive capacity of SIDS at the country level.

Recommendation 5

The executive heads of the United Nations system organizations should ensure the participation of their organizations in the process led by the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development to actively contribute to addressing the specificity of SIDS as a special case with tailor-made solutions, and should also ensure that new parameters of eligibility are designed for better access to financing for development for SIDS.

Recommendation 6

The governing bodies of the United Nations system organizations should encourage the allocation of predictable multi-year funding to facilitate the effective implementation of programmatic activities in support of the small island developing States, based on needs

assessments prepared by the United Nations system organizations in consultation with SIDS and their relevant partners.

Recommendation 7

The legislative and governing bodies of the United Nations system organizations should ensure, based on the ongoing work of the United Nations Statistical Commission and, when relevant, on the work of the inter-agency forums and expert groups created to advise Member States, that the specificity of SIDS is explicitly considered in defining the elements of monitoring and accountability frameworks to report on progress made on the Sustainable Development Goals, so that processes and indicators are adapted to their needs and priorities identified at the national and regional levels.

Recommendation 8

The governing bodies of the United Nations system organizations should coordinate their efforts in designing monitoring and accountability frameworks and tools adapted to the capacity of SIDS to monitor and report on the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and other sustainable development-related global mandates, while avoiding the burden of multiple reporting frameworks.

Recommendation 9

The Secretary-General should present to the General Assembly, as part of his report on follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, a summary of actions taken and planned to strengthen the coordination and complementarity of the work of DESA and OHRLLS in support of SIDS.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AIMS	Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Seas
AOSIS	Alliance of Small Island States
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CDP	Committee for Development Policy
CEB	United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination
CROP	Council of the Regional Organizations of the Pacific
DESA	Department of Economic and Social Affairs
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GEF	Global Environment Facility
HLPF	High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
IACG	Inter-Agency Consultative Group on Small Island Developing States
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ITC	International Trade Centre
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
JIU	Joint Inspection Unit
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
LDC	Least developed country
MEA	Multilateral environmental agreement
NCD	Non-communicable disease
OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
OHRLLS	Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States
PIF	Pacific Islands Forum
QCPR	Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review
SAMOA	SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SIDS	Small island developing States
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
UNCT	United Nations country team

UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDG	United Nations Development Group
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNISDR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNOSSC	United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
UN-Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNWTO	World Tourism Organization
UPU	Universal Postal Union
WFP	World Food Programme
WHC	World Heritage Convention
WHO	World Health Organization
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Background

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 69/288, entitled "Comprehensive review of United Nations system support for small island developing States", in which the Assembly requested the Joint Inspection Unit:

> to conduct a comprehensive review of United Nations system support for small island developing States, with a view to enhancing the overall effectiveness of such support and respective roles in supporting the sustainable development of small island developing States in order to ensure a coherent and coordinated approach by the United Nations system to further improve and strengthen its overall effectiveness and delivery with respect to small island developing States.

B. Scope and coverage

2. The present report presents the final findings and overall conclusions and recommendations of the comprehensive review. Following General Assembly resolution 69/288, the scope of the comprehensive review was defined by the recommendations presented to the General Assembly in the report entitled "Recommendations to the General Assembly of the United Nations for the determination of parameters for a comprehensive review of United Nations system support for small island developing States" (JIU/REP/2015/2). In accordance with paragraph 4 of resolution 69/288, the initial findings of the comprehensive review were presented in the report entitled "Comprehensive review of United Nations system support for small island developing States: initial findings" (JIU/REP/2016/3). The current report presents the final findings, a preview of which was presented in the addendum to the report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (A/71/267/Add.1).

3. The scope of the present report addresses the issues indicated in recommendations 1, 5 and 6 of JIU/REP/2015/2, namely:

(a) Strengthening the system-wide coherence and effectiveness of the United Nations system support to SIDS and the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, within the broader context of global mandates related to sustainable development, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[1] the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,[2] the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030[3] and the Paris Agreement on climate change,[4] among others;[5]

(b) The institutional set-up for monitoring and reporting on the effective implementation of a transformational strategy for the sustainable development of small island developing States;

(c) Institutional and managerial mechanisms to strengthen coordination between the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS) for more effective support to small island developing States (SIDS) and improved communication with Member States.

[1] General Assembly resolution 70/1.
[2] General Assembly resolution 69/313.
[3] General Assembly resolution 69/283.
[4] FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.
[5] These are the global mandates adopted in 2015. The relevance of the marine environment and its biodiversity for SIDS is also addressed by General Assembly resolution 70/235 on oceans and the law of the sea with a strong focus on marine debris, plastics and microplastics, and General Assembly resolution 69/292 on the development of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.

4. The evaluation of the system-wide coherence of implementation of the United Nations system support builds upon the information collected during field visits to a reduced sample of countries in the three SIDS regions, owing to time and resource constraints. In order to be cost-effective, priority was given to visiting multi-country offices, namely Barbados, Fiji, Mauritius, Samoa and Trinidad and Tobago. The team also visited Panama, a United Nations system hub from where regional or subregional offices of a number of organizations provide support to some Caribbean SIDS.[6] A mission to New York took place to meet with officials from the United Nations system and representatives of Member States.

5. Meetings were organized with representatives of United Nations system organizations in the field with the support of the offices of the resident coordinators, and with other relevant stakeholders, involving representatives of Member States, SIDS and development partners, regional organizations, such as the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), academia, non-governmental organizations, international financial institutions, the business sector and local communities.[7] In order to avoid duplication, the report does not provide an exhaustive description of activities in the field, which have already been covered in the report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (A/71/267).

C. Report utilization and acknowledgements

6. In accordance with article 11.2 of the Statute of the Joint Inspection Unit, the present report was completed after consultation among all the Inspectors with a view to testing its conclusions and recommendations against the collective wisdom of the Unit. A draft version was shared with stakeholders for their comments so as to validate the consolidated information in the report.

7. To facilitate the handling of the report, the implementation of its recommendations and the monitoring thereof, annex VI contains a table indicating whether the report is submitted to the organizations concerned for action or for information. The table identifies those recommendations relevant for each organization and their expected impact, specifying whether they require a decision by the organization's legislative organ or governing body or can be acted upon by the organization's executive head.

8. The Inspector would like to thank the JIU participating organizations, the representatives of Member States and the resident coordinators offices, as well as other stakeholders for their valuable inputs; they willingly shared their knowledge and expertise and contributed to the findings of the present review. The Inspector also expresses his appreciation to all who provided assistance in the preparation of the present report.

II. SYSTEM-WIDE COHERENCE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY IN THE CONTEXT OF UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL MANDATES

9. This chapter presents the findings related to the scope of recommendation 1 contained in report JIU/REP/2015/2, which states that:

[6] In Panama, 13 organizations — UNICEF, UNFPA, UNHCR, UN-Women, OCHA, UNISDR, FAO, OHCHR, WFP, UNEP, UNOPS, UNDP and UNODC — focus on different issues in the following States and territories: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Cuba, Curaçao, Dominica, Dominican Republic, French Guyana, Guadeloupe, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Martinique, Montserrat, Puerto Rico, Saint Barthélemy, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Pierre and Miquelon, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sint Maarten, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands and United States Virgin Islands.

[7] In visiting multi-country offices, the team collected information related to 14 SIDS in the Pacific, 22 in the Caribbean and 2 in the Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Seas (AIMS).

The General Assembly should ensure that the comprehensive review addresses the necessary linkages between the SAMOA Pathway and the United Nations global mandates on related key issues, such as the post-2015 development agenda, disaster risk reduction, financing for development, climate change, chemicals and waste management, human rights and gender equality, with a view to strengthening system-wide coherence and ensuring effective system-wide support for the sustainable development of SIDS through adequate provision of resources.

10. In 2015, several development-related global mandates were adopted by Member States, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the Paris Agreement on climate change, among others. In October 2016, the New Urban Agenda was adopted as the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito, paying special attention to SIDS vulnerabilities on urban development.[8] The United Nations system entities should provide support to the countries to foster the implementation of these global mandates, in close consultation and partnership with all relevant stakeholders at the regional and national levels.

11. In assessing the system-wide coherence and effectiveness of the support provided by the United Nations system entities at the regional and national levels in the SIDS regions, particularly by the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies,[9] the team identified, during its field missions and through surveys and desk research, four key areas for further improvement and consolidation of the ongoing and future support to SIDS:

- Better alignment and coordination with national planning and participation of local stakeholders so as to strengthen effective partnerships at the national level in implementing the SAMOA Pathway in the context of the 2030 Agenda and other key mandates relevant to SIDS, such as those related to climate change and disaster risk reduction;[10]
- Increased coordination among United Nations system organizations and other development partners to ensure coherence and effectiveness in programme delivery and capacity-building at the national level, taking into account the absorptive capacity of SIDS;[11]
- Need to amend the eligibility criteria for access to financing for development and technical assistance to be provided to SIDS, in particular for those upper-middle and high-level income countries that are somehow excluded from preferential treatment in spite of their inherent vulnerability profile as small islands and the challenges this condition entails;[12]
- Need to allocate core resources to the SIDS development agenda so as to increase predictability and strengthen effective planning in order for mid- to long-term projects to be effectively conceived and implemented.[13]

12. Sections A to D below further develop the findings on system-wide coherence in the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and propose some recommendations for consideration by Member States and executive heads of organizations to consolidate the ongoing work of the United Nations system in support of the sustainable development of SIDS.

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[8] The Agenda acknowledges the unique and emerging urban development challenges facing SIDS, their specificity in terms of sustainable urban mobility and land and sea transport systems, and their particular vulnerability to sea level rise.

[9] United Nations Secretariat's entities and regional commissions were addressed in JIU/REP/2016/3, as part of the initial findings of the comprehensive review.

[10] See A/71/267/Add.1, finding 1, paras. 3-5.

[11] Ibid., finding 3, paras. 12 and 13.

[12] Ibid., finding 2, paras. 6-11.

[13] Ibid., finding 6, para. 25.

A. Results of the system-wide survey on United Nations system activities in support of SIDS

13. During 2015 and 2016, JIU collected data through surveys of its participating organizations and the secretariats of some of the environmental conventions of relevance to SIDS, based on their contributions to the priority areas set up in the SAMOA Pathway and the means of implementation defined prior to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda.

14. Responses were received from 26 organizations, including two regional commissions[14] and four environmental conventions,[15] providing information about 490 activities within their respective geographical coverage and about the category,[16] type of funding and relation to global mandates in support to sustainable development of SIDS, already implemented or planned to be implemented in the period 2014-2020.[17]

15. The surveys collected data from the respondents based on their contributions to the priority areas set up in the SAMOA Pathway on the basis of the means of implementation set out in General Assembly resolution 69/15 (paras. 96-120). The aggregated results are contained in annexes I-A and I-B, taking into account both the SAMOA Pathway and the Sustainable Development Goals and means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda.[18]

16. The area of climate change through capacity-building and partnerships is given the highest priority, with 24 organizations covering the issue on some grounds through at least one of the means of implementation proposed in the SAMOA Pathway. It is closely followed by activities on disaster risk reduction, for which 18 respondents develop capacity-building and partnerships. These are followed by gender equality, health and non-communicable diseases, as well as food and nutrition. In this regard, noting that these issues mostly coincide with the priorities of the regional strategies of the Pacific and the Caribbean (defined within PIF and CARICOM), the data confirm that there is convergence between the United Nations system contribution in support to SIDS and the priorities identified by their regional policy forums. This is in line with the mandate from General Assembly resolutions on cooperation between the United Nations and PIF,[19] as well as between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community.[20]

17. The analysis of the responses indicates that the majority of the organizations are contributing within the realm of their respective mandates through activities in support of small islands. The data also reveal that the regional coverage of United Nations system activities is balanced between the three SIDS regions, with a predominant focus on capacity-building activities in the field with 68 per cent is reported in this category, while 23.3 per cent is reported as a mix of normative and capacity-building activities (figures 1 and 2 below).

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[14] The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

[15] UNFCCC, UNCCD, the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, and the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol.

[16] The distinction proposed was between normative and operational. Respondents created a new category of "both", which is reflected in the consolidation of data.

[17] Respondents included in their responses both implemented and planned activities, hence the coverage for 2014-2020.

[18] The means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda (General Assembly resolution 70/1) are grouped as one goal, SDG 17, while they are presented separately in the SAMOA Pathway. See annex I-B.

[19] See General Assembly resolution 69/318.

[20] See General Assembly resolution 67/249.

Figure 1: Type of activity

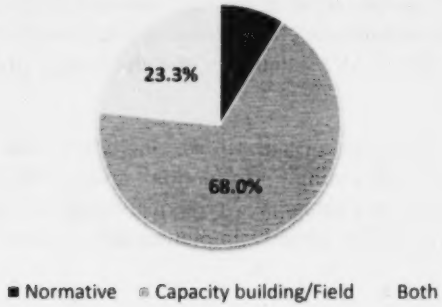
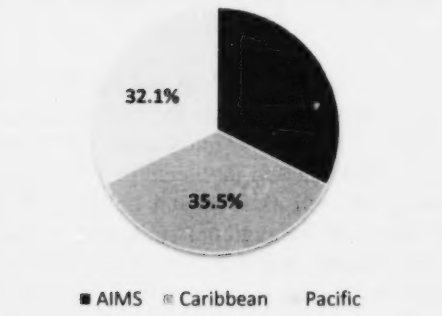
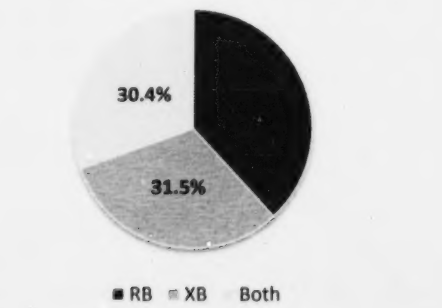


Figure 2: Regional coverage



18. Core budget funding amounts to only 30 per cent of the overall funding. This raises some concerns about the lack of predictability for planning capacity-building in the field due to the inherent variability in resource mobilization through voluntary funds (figure 3).

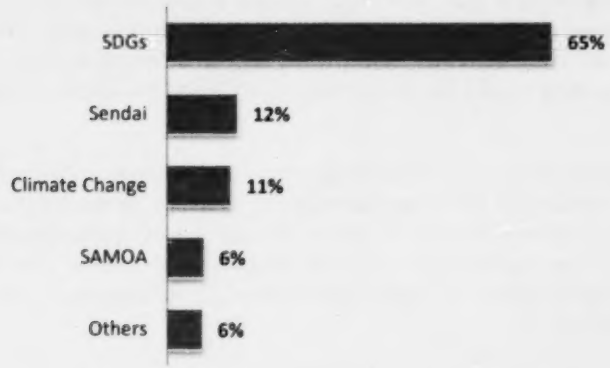
Figure 3: Funding source



19. The linkages with global mandates as reported by respondents refers in very few cases to the SAMOA Pathway itself. Activities in support of SIDS are implemented in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (65 per cent), followed by the mandates on disaster risk reduction (12 per cent)

and climate change (11 per cent). Only 6 per cent of the activities reported are explicitly related to the SAMOA Pathway (figure 4).[21]

Figure 4: Linkages to global mandates



Source: Figures 1 to 4 were prepared by JIU, based on the responses to the system-wide survey (as of June 2016).

B. Coverage of the United Nations system work in SIDS: perspectives from the field

20. The JIU team undertook visits to selected islands in the three SIDS regions, with the active support of the resident coordinators offices in Barbados, Fiji, Mauritius, Samoa and Trinidad and Tobago.[22] It had the opportunity to meet with a variety of stakeholders such as Member States representatives from development partners, regional policy forums and related entities, high-level national authorities, including prime minister's offices, civil society, the business sector and chambers of commerce, non-governmental organizations such as women's and young people's associations, international and regional development banks, and academia.[23] The resource constraints limited the possibility of visiting SIDS with no United Nations system presence at the country level. The Inspector noted during interviews with representatives of permanent missions in New York and with representatives of Member States and officials of the United Nations system in the field that the lack of country presence was an obstacle to providing better assistance to these countries. It was also noted that very weak United Nations presence in the North Pacific was a distinct disadvantage for SIDS there, such as Solomon Islands, and that some consideration should be given to expanding the coverage of the work to avoid leaving any country behind.

21. Field visits were organized to take stock of project implementation executed through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and other United Nations entities in Mauritius and Samoa. The visit to Panama enabled the collection of additional information from organizations of the system that have little or no presence in Caribbean SIDS and are providing support to

[21] For a detailed display of the priority areas covered and the means of implementation, see annexes II-A and II-B.

[22] In the Pacific, the two multi-country offices of Fiji and Samoa cover 14 States and territories: Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. In the Caribbean, the multi-country offices of Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago cover 21 States and territories: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Cuba, Curaçao, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sint Maarten, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. In the Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Seas region, the resident coordinators offices cover Mauritius and the Seychelles.

[23] In Panama, the team met with the Rector of the University and professors in charge of national projects for the relocation of the indigenous community of the Comarca de Guna Yala from national islands that have are already been affected by climate change, with progressive erosion of the community's territory. Lessons learned from this project could be shared with SIDS as an example of South-South collaboration.

small islands from this United Nations hub. Findings emerging from the missions and desk research are developed in the sections below.

United Nations system presence and "delivering as one": alignment of priorities to national strategic development plans and Sustainable Development Goals through the lens of the SAMOA Pathway

22. Perception at the national level is that the United Nations system contributes to national priorities through essentially two dimensions: (a) it brings a pool of technical expertise, which is disseminated at the national level through capacity-building activities; and (b) it plays an advisory and support role as an interface to access international opportunities for financing, such as GEF and the Green Climate Fund, also acting as an executing agency.

23. The United Nations system presence is improving in terms of internal coherence and "Delivering as one", however there is still a perception of competition among agencies. In the Pacific and the Caribbean, which are more homogeneous regions than the Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Seas (AIMS),[24] representatives of national Governments and regional forums consider that there is room for improvement for the United Nations to align with the priorities determined by the regional political leaders, through PIF and CARICOM.

24. The United Nations Development Group (UNDG) and the Resident Coordinator system, building on lessons learned from the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) experience, have launched consultations for new multi-country strategic frameworks in both the Pacific[25] and the Caribbean.[26] The resident coordinators are working with the regional and national institutions, Governments and other stakeholders from civil society to ensure that the United Nations strategic frameworks for the sustainable development of the small islands of these regions are aligned with the priorities set by the leaders of the regions, such as the Framework for Pacific Regionalism[27] and the CARICOM strategic plan for 2015-19.

25. As a result of these regional efforts, the United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework in the Caribbean will be launched for a five-year period from 2017 to 2021, replacing national UNDAFs for Barbados and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. Collaboration between the multi-country office of the resident coordinator and the subregional office of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in Trinidad and Tobago has been instrumental in consolidating an agreed planning document for the subregion. It resulted from consultations in 15 countries, based on a common multi-country assessment, identifying the salient priorities for the subregion, in full alignment with the SAMOA Pathway, the Sustainable Development Goals and the priorities set in the CARICOM Strategic Plan for the Caribbean Community 2015-19.[28]

26. Furthermore, in the Pacific, the multi-country offices in Fiji and Samoa are conducting consultations with all the islands they cover for the approval of an agreed United Nations Pacific Strategy (2018-2022). Consultations were launched in May 2016 by the United Nations resident coordinator offices of Fiji and

[24] The dispersion of AIMS region is greater and the acronym is outdated, as there are no longer any SIDS in the Mediterranean following the incorporation of Cyprus and Malta into the European Union.

[25] The United Nations Pacific Strategy (2018-2022) responds to the request in General Assembly resolution 67/226 to improve the UNDAF to reduce the workload of national governments and other stakeholders. It also responds to the request in General Assembly resolutions 69/318 and 70/1 to align the work of the United Nations in the Pacific region and to strengthen cooperation between regional commissions and organizations.

[26] In June 2016, the draft of the United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework in the Caribbean for the period 2017-2021 was sent out to 18 English and Dutch-speaking Caribbean countries and overseas territories for consultation.

[27] See www.forumsec.org/resources/uploads/embeds/file/framework%20for%20pacific%20regionalism_booklet.pdf.

[28] See http://caricom.org/about-caricom/what-we-do.

Samoa with all the islands of the region so that the United Nations Pacific Strategy could be endorsed by the leaders of the 14 Pacific Island Countries and Territories covered by the two offices.

27. While the countries welcome the pool of expertise and the presence of the multi-country offices, government officials from Samoa reported that the presence at the national level should be preserved and increased in some cases, to avoid some small islands being left behind[29] owing to their remoteness and size. The minimal presence in the North Pacific islands, which are particularly isolated, was highlighted by staff members pointing out the difficulty of providing support to the remote islands of the North Pacific from distant locations owing to the difficult access to this region. A greater presence of the United Nations system in this region would be in line with the overall aim of the 2030 Agenda to support all countries, with particular attention to the most vulnerable ones. Officials from different organizations within the system reported that having at least one staff member in remote locations who could liaise with the rest of the United Nations system could be more cost-effective than having different organizations undertaking lengthy and costly missions to these remote locations.

Examples of good practices of United Nations funds and programmes, specialized agencies and environmental conventions

28. During the team mission to Samoa, the office of the resident coordinator organized a field visit, which allowed the team to observe the positive impact of projects supported by the United Nations system organizations in close partnership with local stakeholders, including civil society. The multi-country offices in the Pacific have held consultation with both regional organizations and national stakeholders so as to ensure that the work of the United Nations system is aligned with the priorities established by the countries of the region.[30] The "One United Nations" Youth Employment Programme, led by the Division for Youth of the Ministry of Women, Social Community and Development of Samoa, with support from six United Nations agencies (the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), UNDP, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations Volunteers) has strengthened the capacities of young women and men, rescuing traditional Samoan arts, and creating new opportunities for decent work in the Samoa Culture Centre. The team also visited the village of Falese'ela on the south-west coast of Upolu island, where the community, with funding from the UNDP Small Grants Programme, is preserving the environment and investing in ecotourism initiatives. These are examples of good practices and partnerships, in line with the commitments launched in 2014 at the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States.

29. In Mauritius, the team visited the prison of Petit Verger, where it could observe the positive impact of the GEF Small Grants Programme. The project on sustainable waste management, an initiative of the Mauritius prison service in collaboration with the Association Kinouété, combined socioeconomic and environmental dimensions, including the consideration of gender issues and focus on youth engagement and participation. It was facilitated through UNDP and conducted in collaboration with the University of Mauritius.

30. The findings of the review confirm that funds and programmes and specialized agencies are already working in the right direction. The role of UNDP is a pivotal one, with the largest presence in the field and its predominant role at the heart of the resident coordinator system, in close coordination with other

[29] The Preamble of the 2030 Agenda pledges that no one will be left behind.

[30] See, for example, as part of the round to complete all the national consultations for the new United Nations Pacific Strategy, recent consultations in Niue, available from www.ws.undp.org/content/samoa/en/home/presscenter/articles/2016/10/10/niue-national-consultations-develop-new-un-pacific-strategy.html, and in the Cook Islands, available from www.ws.undp.org/content/samoa/en/home/presscenter/articles/2016/10/17/cook-islands-national-consultations-with-un-agencies-.html.

agencies with a presence in the field, such as UNESCO, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), among others.[31]

31. UNDP provides both policy engagement and programme support to SIDS. UNDP policy engagement with SIDS includes: (a) supporting SIDS integrate the SDGs into national development planning frameworks; (b) capacity-building and technical assistance for national reporting of SDGs, and other global commitments; and (c) developing priorities and actions for accelerating progress across SDGs, including partnering with other United Nations agencies, where appropriate. UNDP reported on its large multisectoral portfolio of activities in support of SIDS, covering extensively almost all the islands in the three regions. In 2015, UNDP support to SIDS consisted of 28 different thematic areas linked to its Strategic Plan and the SAMOA Pathway, amounting to US$ 232 million. Thematic areas cover most of the priority areas defined in the SAMOA Pathways and SDGs. Most of the projects are grouped to cover several SIDS so that the relevant States can share experiences and address subregional strategies to overcome common challenges and constraints.

32. UNDP is working in partnership with the regional organizations in the SIDS regions, such as CARICOM and OECS in the Caribbean, and with PIF, the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and through the Council of Regional Organizations of the Pacific States (CROPS) coordination mechanism in the Pacific region.[32] In the AIMS region, which has no specific regional forum owing to its dispersed geography, the Programme maintains an active dialogue with the Indian Ocean Commission. In Mauritius, UNDP partners with the University of Mauritius in the Marshall Plan to combat poverty and social exclusion in Mauritius and Rodrigues.[33]

33. UNDP has adopted an effective approach to support SIDS with global processes such as climate change, financing for development, sustainable energy and disaster risk reduction. It is one of the key implementing agencies for these areas and the accredited agency for GEF, the Adaptation Fund[34] and the Green Climate Fund. The Programme's multi-year environment and climate change portfolio under implementation in SIDS is for US$ 300 million. In addition, in 2015 and 2016, UNDP supported SIDS in accessing US$ 142 million of environmental finance for sustainable development. Notably, UNDP supported the Governments of Maldives and Tuvalu in designing climate change adaptation projects and accessing US$ 60 million from the Green Climate Fund to support vulnerable coastal communities to manage climate change-induced water shortages in Maldives and to reduce the impact of increasingly intensive wave action on key infrastructure as a result of climate change-induced sea-level rise and intensifying extreme events in Tuvalu. Its activities are designed to embrace the three pillars of sustainable development — social, economic and environmental sustainability — and pay particular attention to the inclusion of women and young people, the most vulnerable population groups in SIDS.

34. UNFPA, as the United Nations agency with a cross-cutting mandate derived from the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, is represented in the SIDS regions with subregional and country offices. In the Caribbean, the subregional office is located in Jamaica and covers 22 territories and countries with the support of five liaison offices. In the Pacific, the subregional office is located in Fiji and serves 14 countries. In the AIMS region, the presence of UNFPA is comprised of country representatives with responsibility for individual countries and joint offices with United Nations agencies such as UNDP and UNICEF. The Fund's contribution to the regional United Nations country and multi-country frameworks for sustainable development is consolidated at the level of the organizations, channelling the views of the liaison offices, and integrated into the United Nations system strategy. In

[31] DESA has set up an online platform to register the activities of the organizations of the United Nations systems by priority areas of the SAMOA Pathway, indicating lead agencies for each of the activities, see www.sids2014.org/samoapathway.

[32] The General Assembly called for this type of collaboration in its resolution 69/318, urging the United Nations to work closely with the leaders of the Pacific.

[33] The plan was adopted in March 2016. See http://www.govmu.org/English/News/Pages/Fight-against-poverty-Marshall-Plan-being-finalised-by-UNDP-Experts%E2%80%99-Team.aspx

[34] See www.adaptation-fund.org.

order to work towards achieving universal sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, gender equality, investment in young people and the empowerment of women and girls, UNFPA works in strong partnership with respective governments, civil society, regional organizations and other non-United Nations system stakeholders, including representatives of the donor community and the private sector in the Caribbean, Pacific and AIMS regions. In addition to the multi-country regional plans, the Fund also participates in national UNDAFs, or in other work programmes for countries such as Mauritius, which are not UNDAF countries, but do have United Nations system national plans supported by the organizations.

35. UNICEF has country programmes in 34 SIDS, including the Pacific Island Countries country programme covering 14 SIDS with a budget of US$ 71,825,000,[35] the Eastern Caribbean multi-country programme covering 8 SIDS with a budget of US$ 31,000,000[36] and other stand-alone country programmes, such as those for Cabo Verde and Maldives.

36. UNICEF is advocating for the protection of children's rights in SIDS, mainly in the areas of health, HIV/AIDS, water, sanitation and hygiene, nutrition, child protection, and social inclusion by fostering an enabling, child-friendly and protective environment, reducing the vulnerabilities of girls and boys and their families to social, environmental and economic risks and enhancing their participation. Examples of the Fund's work in SIDS, among others, include: (a) gathering national disaggregated data on girls and boys; (b) support to national children's programmes and policies; (c) State compliance with reporting to the Committee on the Rights of the Child and State actions in response to the Committee's observations and recommendations; (d) national budget allocations to ensure coverage for excluded and disadvantaged children; and (e) equitable, efficient and child- and gender-sensitive social protection policies and systems.

37. Owing to its broad field office presence in SIDS, UNICEF works in partnership with other United Nations system organizations with a limited presence by providing support to the delivery of their work, such as when ad hoc missions take place. Also, UNICEF teams up with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), thus linking mandates to improve the conditions of children through support to women. UNICEF also works in close partnerships with UNFPA and the World Health organization (WHO) on specific issues, such as the Zika virus emergency in the Caribbean.

38. Since the adoption of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in 2005, UNESCO has included specific goals related to SIDS in its workplan and has set up ad hoc bodies to follow up on the implementation of SIDS-related mandates.[37] In April 2016, the UNESCO SIDS Action Plan 2016-2021 was finalized following close consultation with small island developing States.[38] It contains a plan for implementation within the approved programme budget for 2016-17 and a resource mobilization strategy to address the gap between core resources and those required for the full implementation of the Action Plan.

39. With a focus on five priority areas within the Organization's mandate in education, natural and ocean sciences, social sciences, culture, communication and information, the Action Plan proposes a set of objectives and follow-up actions to address the unique vulnerabilities and challenges faced by SIDS, including climate change, while taking into account the outcomes of the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), as well as the goals and specific targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Representing the engagement of UNESCO in the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, the proposed Action Plan requires integrated and intersectoral engagement across UNESCO programme areas, as well as the mobilization of a wide range of partners and stakeholders in SIDS and in other countries worldwide,

[35] See www.unicef.org/about/execboard/files/Pacific_Island_Countries-2013-2017-final_approved-English-14Sept2012.pdf.
[36] See www.unicef.org/about/execboard/files/Eastern_Caribbean_multicountry_2012-2016_20_Oct_2012.pdf.
[37] See www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/priority-areas/sids/about-unesco-and-sids/unesco-sids-platform/.
[38] See document 199 EX/5.INF.Rev, available at http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002439/243993e.pdf, and UNESCO Executive Board Decision 199 EX/Decision/5, available at http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002446/244639e.pdf.

including through an inter-institutional and inter-agency collaboration. These good practices could be shared as a model to follow system-wide. Furthermore, the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education has set up a specific fellowship programme for SIDS nationals to strengthen their capacities in water and sanitation management.[39]

40. The UNESCO office in Samoa performs its work in close collaboration with other United Nations system organizations under the "Delivering as one" umbrella. A new UNESCO regional programme document, laying out the strategy for 2016-2021, is under preparation. It prioritizes inter-agency collaboration and improving partnerships, including on climate change and disaster risk management, and aligns with the SDGs, the SAMOA Pathway, the Pacific regional agenda, the UNESCO SIDS Action Plan and other relevant frameworks and goals. Particular attention is given to mainstreaming the gender dimension into delivering the work in the region, covering 14 SIDS. Joint programmes are implemented with FAO on education for better nutrition, and with the local authorities on the youth employment programme with the Government of Samoa and other local stakeholders. Collaboration with UNICEF on education issues is also addressed. The team was informed that many SIDS were not yet parties to the UNESCO Convention on the protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage adopted in 2001, and it was suggested that they could consider becoming parties thereto.[40] Ratification of that Convention by SIDS would open up access to greater support from UNESCO to better protect them against the depletion of their underwater treasures.

41. With respect to WHO country presence, the Organization has offices in 18 SIDS distributed evenly in the three SIDS regions. WHO provides technical cooperation to ministries of health and its partners on health, with a wide range of activities from primary health care to safety assessments of hospital infrastructure and health areas such as sexual and reproductive health, nutrition, disability and rehabilitation and violence and injury, and non-communicable diseases (NCDs), which are the leading causes of mortality and morbidity in SIDS, particularly in the Pacific. During the visit to Fiji, the team was informed of the importance of addressing the social impact of non-communicable diseases, given the high level of invalidity among the population as a result of amputations resulting from NCDs. In the Pacific, WHO supported the Pacific Island Countries, in collaboration with SPC and other partners, in developing and implementing a Zika response plan. WHO is also one of the lead agencies in the Pacific for disaster response and outbreak response involved in assisting countries with responding to the threat posed by the Ebola virus, dengue fever, chikungunya and other emerging threats.

42. At the planning level, WHO develops country cooperation strategies (CCS), which contain a medium-term vision for the Organization's technical cooperation with a given Member State, and supports the State's national health plans. It also serves as a basis for aligning the Organization's collaboration with other United Nations bodies and development partners at the country level. There are currently CCS in some 22 SIDS, one multi-country cooperation strategy for the Pacific and two CCS covering territories.[41]

43. WHO was extensively involved in providing support to Fiji, in close cooperation with humanitarian partners and the Ministry of Health of Fiji, in response to Tropical Cyclone Winston in February 2016. Its office in Fiji hosts the Division of Pacific Technical Support, which was established to strengthen linkages and support from WHO to 21 Pacific Island Countries and Territories.

44. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) addresses an issue of high relevance to SIDS, not only from a health perspective but particularly owing to its social implications. The Programme is working to support SIDS through its subregional support team for the Caribbean based in Jamaica, and for the Pacific from Fiji. Given the multisectoral nature of HIV/AIDS, the Programme contributes to strengthening national and regional institutions in key thematic areas of science and technology, culture and national administrative support to better address the challenges related to HIV/AIDS. Priority is given

[39] See www.unesco-ihe.org/sids-fellowships.
[40] See www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/underwater-cultural-heritage/2001-convention.
[41] See www.who.int/country-cooperation/what-who-does/strategies-and-briefs/en/.

to SIDS with a high prevalence of HIV, through programmes targeting the most vulnerable population exposed to higher risks. Linkages with other health-related and development issues, such as NCDs, are also addressed in collaboration with WHO and the Pan American Health Organization. UNAIDS also pays particular attention to issues related to women, young people and migrants.

45. The World Food Programme (WFP), which provides mainly food assistance for the most vulnerable populations, reported on contributions in other areas connected with the means necessary to ensure the delivery of its core mandate, such as emergency telecommunications, food price monitoring systems, strengthening emergency preparedness and resilience, and emergency response to drought.

46. WFP was a key player in providing emergency food assistance to victims of Cyclone Pam in the Pacific in 2015 and to victims of Cyclone Winston in Fiji in 2016. It has formalized its partnership with respective ministries in Fiji to better coordinate the provision of special food assistance with national authorities.

47. FAO helps its member countries to achieve food and nutrition security, sustainable agriculture and rural development while promoting the sustainable use, conservation and management of natural resources and ecosystem services. FAO supports SIDS through policy advice, analysis and technical assistance in agriculture, fisheries, forestry and natural resources management in an effort to support resilient livelihoods and enhance food security. In this respect, following a review of the challenges and emerging issues in agriculture, forestry and fisheries in SIDS undertaken in 2004, FAO has developed the Blue Growth Initiative for SIDS,[42] and a policy paper on food security and nutrition in SIDS.[43] FAO also works closely with Pacific islands such as Solomon Islands and Vanuatu to address the linkages between safe food and NCDs, an area of huge concern for SIDS.[44]

48. FAO's Strategic Framework provides a comprehensive platform to streamline the initiatives contributing to the priorities of SIDS in line with SAMOA Pathway. For building resilience to natural hazards and resulting disasters in the Caribbean and the Pacific region, FAO launched an inter-regional initiative on SIDS, and projects to strengthen preparedness and resilience of farming and fishing communities to natural disasters by supporting the development of Agricultural Disaster Risk Reduction Plans and implementation of location-specific best practices and technologies for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. FAO's Programme of Work and Budget 2016–17 includes a USD 6.1 million increase to the Technical Cooperation Programme specifically to support SIDS efforts to adapt to climate change, to be met through voluntary contributions.

49. FAO collaborates with DESA and OHRLLS to fulfil paragraph 61 of the SAMOA Pathway, in which FAO is requested to facilitate the development of a SIDS action programme to address food security and nutrition challenges. Following the high-level event co-organized in Milan from 14 to 16 October 2015 by DESA, OHRLLS and FAO, and sponsored by the Government of Italy, FAO has developed a roadmap to undertake a consultative process to develop the action programme by engaging governments, SIDS technical experts, other relevant stakeholders and pre-existing mechanisms and arrangements at the national, regional and inter-regional levels. Consultation meetings were organized for the SIDS of the Caribbean, the Pacific and the AIMS regions in March and April 2016 and an inter-regional meeting was organized in Fiji in November 2016 to consolidate the priorities of the global action programme.

50. The portfolio of activities of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) includes a number of projects that benefit SIDS, mainly through capacity-building and institutional support. UNIDO provides institutional support to the SIDS Sustainable Energy Initiative (SIDS Dock) and at the regional level to CARICOM, SPC and the Economic Community of West African States through the creation of a network of regional sustainable energy centres for SIDS in Africa, the Pacific, the Caribbean and the

[42] See www.fao.org/3/a-i3958e.pdf.

[43] See https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2231Food%20Security%20and%20Nutrition%20in%20SIDS.pdf.

[44] See the Milan Declaration on Enhancing Food Security and Climate Adaptation in Small Island Developing States. Available at www.italyun.esteri.it/rappresentanza_onu/en/comunicazione/archivio-news/2015/10/2015-10-19-milan-sids.html.

Indian Ocean. UNIDO, in cooperation with the Governments of Barbados, Cabo Verde, the Dominican Republic and Guinea Bissau, is implementing several projects funded by GEF on the promotion of renewable energy investments and markets.

51. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has been supporting SIDS in further strengthening their criminal justice response to corruption and terrorism through facilitating ratification and implementation of the international conventions and protocols related to corruption and terrorism, such as the United Nations Convention against Corruption, providing legislative assistance for the review and drafting of domestic counter-terrorism legislation, building national criminal justice capacity related to counter-terrorism and strengthening national anti-corruption legislation, policies and institutional frameworks and capacities. UNODC has established a successful multi-year partnership with the PIF Secretariat. As a result of this cooperation and the work of UNODC, several Pacific Islands Forum countries have developed and enacted new or amended counter-terrorism legislation.

52. Furthermore, since 2015, UNODC has been assisting the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat in conducting a comprehensive review and revision of its model legislation related to terrorism to bring its provisions into accordance with the international requirements and standards, such as the provisions of Security Council resolution 2178 (2014). As a further example of good practice in support of SIDS national policies, UNODC has developed a regional technical assistance project aligned with the CARICOM Crime and Security Strategy to counter organized crime, corruption, illicit trafficking and terrorism. In 2016, country presence was established with a small office in Barbados.[45]

53. In addition, UNODC provides assistance to SIDS in the fight against money-laundering and illicit trafficking, as well as in drug demand reduction. In Mauritius, United Nations system organizations work together even though there is no established UNDAF. In this context, UNODC works with UNAIDS, UNDP and WHO on implementing a joint programme on reducing substance abuse, an important element of the agenda to address non-communicable diseases.

54. Given that over the past few years, many SIDS have made it clear that they are extremely concerned about the long-term economic, social and political consequences of high youth unemployment and underemployment, ILO is reflecting these concerns in decent work country programmes that are the result of intensive dialogue with the national Government, trade unions and employers' associations. ILO ensures that these priorities are reflected in UNDAFs, or similar United Nations system-wide plans at the regional, subregional and country levels. The tripartite governance structure of ILO facilitates the implementation of capacity-building projects in SIDS through partnerships involving worker organizations, the private sector and local authorities. Issues addressed are: (a) national labour law reform in conformity with international labour standards; (b) labour migration policies and programmes; and (c) expansion of social protection floor coverage.

55. The United Nations Office for Project Services is present in SIDS regions, providing technical assistance on infrastructure development and management, procurement issues, water solutions, bridge constructions, hospitals, routes and logistical facilities. It works in cooperation with other United Nations agencies on ad hoc basis. For example, it partners with UNDP on issues related to employment and income generation for young people, and in prison infrastructure rehabilitation projects. In the context of reconstruction projects, such as in Haiti, UNDP mobilizes the resources and the United Nations Office for Project Services supports the implementation of the project. The Office also supports other United Nations organizations in participating in procurement processes. It works with UNFPA to improve operations in hospitals. The Office is included in the UNDAFs, and as part of its mandate it develops project management on behalf of others, providing the organizations of the system with operational mechanisms to facilitate their activities in the field.

[45] See www.unodc.org/ropan/en/unodc-regional-programme-2014-2016-in-support-of-the-caricom-crime-and-security-strategy.html.

56. The International Trade Centre (ITC) is implementing projects in SIDS in the three regions, with a particular focus on the empowerment of women through partnerships with the private sector and local stakeholders. It signed an agreement with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat during the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held in Samoa, establishing a framework for cooperation to promote socioeconomic development in the region through increased competitiveness and exports. In Papua New Guinea, ITC is supporting the crafts sector to increase market opportunities for a traditional bag, called a bilum, made from unique hand yarn-twisting and weaving techniques, with the goal of increasing women's incomes and overall economic empowerment. In 2015, ITC worked with bilum-producing cooperatives from around the country to set up the Bilum Export and Promotion Association, in partnership with the Small and Medium Enterprise Corporation that was established by the Government. In Vanuatu, ITC is supporting the creation of the first association of women exporters as a mechanism to federate handicraft makers and other women entrepreneurs spread over several islands and to promote quality standards and give the women new product tips for international sales. In the process, the association will also support other tourism-centred enterprises owned by women. By late 2015, ITC had already facilitated exports of a consignment of handicraft from Sanma Province to Queensland, Australia.

57. Under projects funded by the European Union, ITC is helping to increase the incomes of poor communities and enterprises in Fiji by improving key support services in the crop agriculture and livestock sectors. In these projects, ITC has applied its market-led value chain development approach, which is based around building efficient and inclusive platforms for alliances for action with equitable international buyers, national processer-exporters, clusters of farmers, farm, trade, research and business development support services, policymakers, government and international development agencies. Engaging this mix of stakeholders has led to innovative and pragmatic ideas to improve quality compliance with market requirements and develop new speciality products aimed at market niches that are attractive for low volume producers like most SIDS.

58. In AIMS region, ITC has been implementing a project in the Comoros since 2014 in partnership with UNDP and the Government of the Comoros. The project, funded by the Enhanced Integrated Framework, aims to improve the competitiveness of the three traditional export sectors — vanilla, cloves and ylang-ylang — to boost exports. The project aims to strengthen the institutional and technical capacities of producers and exporters to play a more active role in the commercialization of their products on international markets and to take better advantage of international trade benefits.

59. In the Caribbean, the partnership between ITC, the European Union and the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute in Belize, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago has successfully delivered road maps for the development of the coconut sector. The Coconut Industry Development for the Caribbean project will contribute to improving income and employment opportunities, food security, disaster management, and competitiveness of Caribbean producers. In Mauritius, ITC is implementing projects on trade facilitation in partnership with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to categorize obligations under the Agreement on Trade Facilitation of the World Trade Organization, assisting the country in the establishment of the Mauritius National Trade Facilitation Committee.

60. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is largely involved in connecting SIDS to the information society. ITU has completed connectivity projects in the Pacific and AIMS regions. With its programme for least developed countries (LDCs), SIDS and emergency telecommunications, ITU addresses the digital divide between SIDS and other areas the world and between different SIDS, to strengthen the telecommunication sector, promoting the establishment of new structures, well-managed and modern networks for better communications, so as to boost the sustainable development of SIDS.

61. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO), at the seventeenth session of the World Meteorological Congress,[46] held in 2015, established the Programme for SIDS and Member Island Territories.[47] The Programme focuses on enhancing the capability of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services to address hydrometeorological challenges with the aim of helping governments and communities to make informed decisions on safety and on issues relevant to a wide array of socioeconomic development sectors. The overall objectives of the Programme are: (a) improving delivery of weather and climate information services; (b) strengthening human and technical capacities at national and regional climate centres; (c) increasing the range of product and services delivery to stakeholders; (d) fostering South-South and North-South cooperation; and (e) expanding the infrastructure required for weather and climate research services.

62. WMO also works closely with some Pacific SIDS — Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tonga — on projects such as the Severe Weather Forecasting Demonstration Project for South Pacific Islands[48] and the Coastal Inundation Forecasting Demonstration Project for Fiji[49] to help them to gain access and utilize information from WMO global and regional centres[50] in order to improve early warnings of hydrometeorological related hazards. WMO establishes tropical cyclone regional bodies, regional specialized meteorological centres and tropical cyclone warning centres around the globe, including in SIDS regions, to coordinate monitoring, tracking, analysing and providing guidance and warnings on tropical cyclones, typhoons and storms.[51] Implementation of the Global Framework for Climate Services[52] is progressing in SIDS regions, including in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, organizing the Regional Climate Outlook Forum,[53] National Climate Outlook Forums in Kiribati, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu, developing National Climate Frameworks for Climate Services in Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu, and developing a Regional Pacific Roadmap for Climate Services. WMO provides the secretariat of the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems, an initiative that facilitates access to additional financing to least developed countries-SIDS. WMO works in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme in reviewing the Pacific Islands Meteorological Strategy 2012-2021.[54]

63. The subregional United Nations offices for the Pacific in Fiji and Samoa together provide support to 14 SIDS and territories. The offices work in close cooperation with UNDP, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), in particular on issues related to climate change, disaster and humanitarian emergencies related to these events that impact on the islands.

64. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) stated that all its five strategic objectives were relevant to the Organization's support to SIDS, in particular to the No Country Left Behind campaign, which is aimed at ensuring that the implementation of the Standards and Recommended Practices is better harmonized globally, so that all States have access to the significant socioeconomic benefits of safe and reliable air transport. More specifically, ICAO actively contributes to remedy connectivity shortfalls in air transportation with its initiatives on island States connectivity enhancement and aviation partnerships for sustainable development, taking into consideration the special needs and structural characteristics of SIDS in the coordination, prioritization, facilitation and implementation of assistance programmes.

[46] See www.wmo.int/aemp/sites/default/files/wmo_1157_en.pdf, resolution 54.
[47] See http://public.wmo.int/en/media/news/wmo-sets-new-small-island-developing-states-programme.
[48] See www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/swfdp/SWFDDP-SP.html.
[49] See www.jcomm.info/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=167&Itemid=37.
[50] See www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/DPS/gdps.html.
[51] See www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/tcp/organization.html.
[52] See www.wmo.int/gfcs/.
[53] See www.wmo.int/pages/prog/wcp/wcasp/wcasp_home_en.html.
[54] See www.pacificclimatechange.net/document/pacific-islands-meteorological-strategy-2012---2021-sustaining-weather-and-climate-services.

65. In doing so, ICAO participates in the promotion of sustainable synergies between air transport and tourism in cooperation with the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), for example, at the round table on good regulatory practice as the key to promoting the linkage between air transport and tourism in small islands, to be held in the Bahamas in December 2016. In addition, in 2015 ICAO and UNDP formed a partnership to contribute to the global agenda of addressing climate change through a project on transforming the global aviation sector through emissions reductions from international aviation, financed by GEF. ICAO is thus supporting SIDS in their efforts to reduce carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions from international aviation. This project will deliver a series of guidance materials that will ultimately enable other SIDS to implement similar projects. The replicability of this approach ensures the multiplication of the environmental benefits associated with the project. Pursuant to resolution A39-2 adopted at the thirty-ninth session of the ICAO Assembly, the Organization, in encouraging pursuit of its capacity-building activities in the area of States' action plans on CO_2 emissions reduction activities for international aviation, is engaging in the development of a capacity-building project specifically dedicated to SIDS in the Pacific region. In the context of the States' action plans initiative, ICAO entered into a successful partnership with the European Union, to support 14 selected States in developing their action plans, install aviation environmental systems and implement pilot CO2 mitigation projects. Among the 14 States are three SIDS: Dominican Republic, Sao Tome and Principe and Trinidad and Tobago. In addition, ICAO conducts regular assistance activities targeting all of its 191 Member States. These activities have led to the voluntary submission of 102 action plans, including in Bahrein, Belize, Cuba, Fiji, Jamaica, Mauritius and Singapore.

66. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) fosters scientific and technical cooperation in the nuclear field, contributing to safe, secure and peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology. It implements several projects in all the three SIDS regions, aiming at strengthening national institutions, building national capacities and transferring nuclear technology to the areas where the application of nuclear techniques could make a positive contribution to sustainable development. These areas include human health, food and agriculture, water and environment, radiation technologies, regulatory infrastructures and standards. Its technical cooperation programme supports both Mauritius and the Seychelles in capacity-building for sustainable energy planning to increase the contribution of renewable energy and the role of energy conservation in the mitigation of climate change.

67. The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) cooperation programme for LDCs provides a useful conduit for the Organization to address the specific needs of some SIDS whose development goals and challenges vary significantly and conform to those of LDCs. The nine SIDS, the Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Kiribati, Sao Tome and Principe, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu and Vanuatu are the beneficiaries of the dedicated support programme of WIPO for LDCs, which is framed in its programme and budget structure. Across the range of WIPO development cooperation programmes, attention is paid to their specific and different needs and priorities as SIDS and LDCs. In 2010, the Organization established the Caribbean Unit, under its Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, to address the specific areas of priority needs for Caribbean countries. In 2014, it was upgraded to the Caribbean Section.

68. The UNWTO contribution to sustainable development in SIDS goes back to the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in Barbados in 1994, at which UNWTO actively encouraged delegates to focus on tourism in the Barbados Programme of Action. That was followed by the International Conference on Sustainable Tourism in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Other Islands, convened jointly with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and held in Lanzarote, Spain, in 1998.

69. UNWTO works in close cooperation with the World Travel and Tourism Council to promote tourism as a main driver of economic development and sustainability. The Council is composed of the chairs, presidents and chief executive officers of 100 of the world's foremost travel and tourism companies. Furthermore, based on the successful implementation of the International Network of Sustainable Tourism Observatories, UNWTO is ready to work with key local partners such as national tourism administrations,

tourism operators, academic institutions and the local community to establish one or more observatories in key SIDS destinations with the objective of monitoring adherence to identified indicators of sustainability and initiating corrective actions when needed.

70. The Inspector noted that the International Organization for Migration (IOM) was working closely with the United Nations system organizations and participating on an ad hoc basis in meetings of United Nations country teams (UNCTs), such as in Fiji and Mauritius, even before its official adherence to the United Nations family, which was formalized at the seventy-first session of the General Assembly.[55] Migratory issues are high on the agenda of SIDS; IOM is assisting the islands in its work on the matter, paying particular attention to the most vulnerable migrants, namely women and children.

Examples of the work of environmental conventions in support of SIDS

71. The secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change provides support through capacity-building activities that are highly relevant to SIDS, noting that this group of countries is among the most vulnerable to climate change. Cognizant of their special circumstances as among the most vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, the Paris Agreement placed them at the forefront with a view to providing support on issues related to adaptation, mitigation, financial transparency and nationally determined contributions. Several constituted bodies of the Convention contribute to awareness-raising, enhancing institutional arrangements in SIDS, including for reporting and knowledge sharing. The LDC Expert Group provides technical guidance and support to countries undertaking the process of formulating and implementing national adaptation plans and implementing the national adaptation programmes of action. That is achieved through regional training workshops and provision of technical guidelines and materials. The Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts mobilizes expertise and resources in a coherent manner on issues related to, among others, comprehensive climate risk management, including risk pooling and transfer, non-economic losses and climatic events that may involve irreversible and permanent loss and damage. They are also building capacities and raising awareness on migration, displacement and human mobility owing to factors related to climate change impacts.

72. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) engages with a wide range of stakeholders in delivering its work, including regional centres and networks of SIDS, such as SPREP and SPC, which have organized technical workshops in the Pacific on the formulation and implementation of national adaptation plans. At the Conference of the Parties held in Marrakech from 7 to 18 November 2016, the agenda included a regional dialogue on building resilience to climate change and blue economies in SIDS around the world. The Conference also hosted a side event organized by the UNESCO Small Islands and Indigenous Knowledge Section as part of the thematic day dedicated to SIDS.[56]

73. The secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification delivers activities in partnerships with SPREP and UNDP country offices in the Pacific, addressing issues of land degradation, desertification and drought. The majority of SIDS have formulated action programmes to address land degradation. The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification secretariat finances activities in support of SIDS mainly through voluntary contributions and GEF. In the Caribbean, partnerships are in place with the CARICOM secretariat and the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute. In the AIMS region, joint activities are prepared in collaboration with the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel and the Economic Community of West African States.

74. The preamble of the Convention on Biological Diversity refers to SIDS. Forty of them are parties to the Convention and its Protocols, and are thus eligible for support under the Convention. Work is developed

[55] See A/RES/70/296. The signature of the Agreement concerning the Relationship between the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration took place on 19 September 2016 at the opening of the seventy-first session of the General Assembly.

[56] See www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/priority-areas/small-island-developing-states/EVENTS/SIDS_Day_at_COP22.

with SPREP and also coordinated by the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) as an implementation platform. Regional strategies for SIDS are articulated to compensate for their limited capacity to report at the national level, through initiatives such as the "Island Challenges", developed in partnership with the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund and the Micronesia Challenge Fund. The Convention is strengthening its support work to SIDS through enhanced collaboration with regional and subregional offices of UNEP and other United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies. SIDS were given special recognition, particularly concerning financial and technical support, when the Convention was adopted. In 2006, the programme of work on island biodiversity was adopted.[57] The Convention is contributing to SDGs 14 and 15, which are of particular relevance to SIDS. The monitoring framework for the Convention is set through the Aichi Biodiversity Targets[58] and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.[59]

75. The secretariat of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants develops a number of capacity-building activities, including partnerships, in support of SIDS in the three regions. It contributes to the development of household waste management and to awareness-raising for addressing the issue of sound life cycle management of dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT). The secretariat has organized global workshops to assist on the updating of national implementation plans under the Stockholm Convention, and regional workshops to enhance capacities for sound management of waste on electrical and electronic equipment. Furthermore, assistance was provided to several SIDS in the Caribbean and Pacific subregions to facilitate the entry into force of the Basel Convention Ban Amendment and its implementation in their respective countries. The secretariat has strengthened its capacity to specifically address the needs of SIDS with a staff post acting as focal point for SIDS at its headquarters in Geneva.

76. Since 1991, the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer has provided a total of US$ 66.7 million for 763 projects in 39 SIDS to phase out 2,387 ozone-depleting potential tonnes of ozone depleting substances (ODS). According to the consumption and production of ODS reported to the Ozone Secretariat by SIDS under article 7 of the Montreal Protocol, all SIDS have eliminated their consumption of chlorofluorocarbons (CTCs), halons, carbon tetrachloride (CTC), trichloroacetic acid (TCA), controlled uses of methyl bromide and frozen their hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFCs) consumption at the baseline level in accordance with the control measures under the Protocol. Since ozone-depleting substances are also greenhouse gases, there were also measurable climate benefits associated with their phase-out.

77. In 2015, the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund approved 78 projects for SIDS amounting to US$ 5.4 million, including agency support costs, to phase out 3.0 ozone-depleting potential tonnes of ozone-depleting substance. This was more than planned, as technical assistance activities were approved from a special funding window in addition to the business plan. The secretariat of the Multilateral Fund contributes to mitigating the impact of climate change since ozone-depleting substances and many of their alternatives have high global warming potential. The Fund provides support to eligible SIDS for institutional strengthening to manage the ODS phase-out programme and provide data. Funding was provided for the establishment of a national ozone unit in each of the SIDS. The funding to support institutional strengthening is renewed every two years to ensure the provision of at least one full-time staff member and associated costs. This enables the Government of each of the SIDS to take full ownership of national ozone programme. National ozone units in SIDS have become the focal points for mobilizing stakeholders, initiating and following up on legislation, and coordinating the preparation and implementation of ODS phase-out projects. Additional assistance was provided through the Multilateral

[57] See decision VIII/1: www.cbd.int/decision/cop/?id=11013.

[58] See the Biodiversity Barometer. Available at www.bipindicators.net.

[59] See decision X/2 of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Available from www.cbd.int/decision/cop/?id=12268.

Fund funded by the UNEP compliance assistance programme and its regional networks of ozone officers. Regional networking is of particular importance for geographically isolated islands and provides the opportunity for national ozone officers in SIDS to exchange experiences and share knowledge on a regular basis.[60]

78. Under article 5 of the Montreal Protocol, the Multilateral Fund is to assist developing countries that are parties to the Protocol.[61] Most SIDS are implementing an individual phase-out management plan (HPMP). In the Pacific, twelve of them have taken a cost-effective approach with one HPMP for the subregion, comprising the Cook Islands, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Owing to its higher hydrochlorofluorocarbon consumption compared with other SIDS, Fiji has an individual national plan. Tokelau, as a territory of New Zealand, does not receive funding as an article 5 country.

79. The team noted that organizations with well-defined work programmes in support of SIDS at headquarters deliver more effectively in the field, since they can more easily relate to the mandate of their organization in reporting on their activities, responding to clear objectives established at headquarters. **The Inspector encourages those United Nations system organizations that have still not done so to include a strategic goal to support the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, and to identify key performance indicators for monitoring progress in implementation. These indicators should be conceived so as to contribute to report on progress made not only on the SAMOA Pathway but also on the 2030 Agenda, the Sendai Framework, the Paris Agreement and other environmental agreements, to minimize the reporting burden. The recent adoption by UNEP[62] of a resolution to support the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway should contribute to bringing coherence and coordination within the United Nations system, involving the environmental conventions administered by UNEP into the system-wide picture, addressing and reporting on progress made on the environmental pillar of sustainable development.**[63]

80. While resident coordinators in the SIDS regions give due consideration to the priorities identified in the SAMOA Pathway, the overarching development agenda is currently more aligned with the global mandate of the 2030 Agenda. Formal support from headquarters organizations, incorporating the SAMOA Pathway in their work programmes, would pave the way for more explicit attention to be given to the objectives of the SAMOA Pathway in itself.

81. The Inspector is of the view that the executive heads of the organizations should ensure, through the involvement of their organizations in the resident coordinator system, that activities under their mandates relevant to SIDS are included in the United Nations system regional and national strategies and work programmes. Non-resident agencies such as UNCTAD and environmental conventions such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change should be included in the overall planning and delivery of capacity-building in the field, under the umbrella of the regional and national UNDAFs, or development plans for those countries with no UNDAF, such as Mauritius, handled through the United Nations resident coordinator system.

82. The implementation of the following recommendations would contribute to more effective coordination in implementing and monitoring the SAMOA Pathway.

[60] The figures quoted in this paragraph were submitted by the secretariat of the Multilateral Fund.

[61] See http://ozone.unep.org/en/article-5-parties-status.

[62] See UNEP foresight on emerging issues for SIDS at http://www.unep.org/pdf/Emerging_issues_for_small_island_developing_states.pdf

[63] See UNEP/EA.2/Res.4 at http://www.unep.org/about/sgb/cpr_portal/Portals/50152/2-4/K1607137_UNEPEA2_RES4E.pdf.

Recommendation 1

The governing bodies of the United Nations system and of the multilateral environment agreements, taking into account the findings of the comprehensive review, should give precise system-wide coordinated guidance to the organizations so as to ensure that the priorities of the SAMOA Pathway are mainstreamed in the strategic plans, within the realm of the organizations' mandates, and should encourage all stakeholders to make sufficient and predictable resources available for the effective and accelerated implementation of the Pathway.

Recommendation 2

The governing bodies of the United Nations system should ensure that the strategic plans and work programmes of the system organizations include specific objectives related to the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, within the realm of their respective mandates, to be measured against a set of established key performance indicators to monitor and report on the achievements.

Recommendation 3

The governing bodies of the United Nations system, in adopting the strategic plans and work programmes of the organizations, should encourage the organizations to ensure that the activities in support of sustainable development of SIDS, within the realm of the mandate of each organization, are aligned with the regional and national priorities identified by the Governments of those States, regional organizations and SIDS development partners, so as to foster the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, as the blueprint of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of SIDS.

Strengthening coherence and effectiveness in capacity-building delivery in SIDS

83. In order to strengthen system-wide coherence in programmatic activities in the field, areas of key interest for SIDS such as climate change and disaster risk reduction could be better addressed in synergetic approaches. This would require closer coordination of United Nations system entities governed by different legislative bodies. In particular, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is governed by its Conference of the Parties and the roadmap is the Paris Agreement. For disaster risk reduction, the responsible entity within the United Nations system is the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR). The document containing the proposed United Nations Strategic Framework for 2016-17 stated that:

> *The Organization will thus need to strengthen its efforts to promote effective disaster risk reduction strategies that will limit the exposure and vulnerability of communities and build the resilience of nations and communities to natural hazards*[64]

84. Responses to the JIU questionnaire confirmed that climate change and disaster risk reduction are the priority areas that are addressed by the highest number of United Nations system organizations. In some cases, organizations address both issues jointly whenever it is meaningful to do so at the country level, as is the case for UNDP.

85. A positive trend in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and climate change in UNDAF planning has taken place in recent years. According to UNISDR, a review carried out in 2013 found that 50 of 56

[64] A/69/6 (part one), para. 25.

country UNDAFs published since 2009 prioritized disaster and climate risk reduction. In 2014, 79 per cent of published UNDAFs included these two issues.[65] UNISDR continues to promote integration of disaster risk reduction into common country programming, including through the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience: Towards a Risk-informed and Integrated Approach to Sustainable Development,[66] which was endorsed by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) in 2016, and through the United Nations Development Group mechanisms at the global and regional levels.

86. While the need to strengthen capacities was confirmed during the field visits, additional elements have to be taken into consideration to ensure that programmatic activities have a long-term impact at the national level, beyond the mere delivery of technical assistance. The lack of absorptive capacity in SIDS to receive training, process and maintain in the country the capacities acquired through knowledge-building support was reported in all three regions. At the national level, brain drain contributes to a perpetual cycle of basic knowledge transfer instead of building on previously acquired skills and fostering national skills ownership. Nonetheless, a few interviewees considered that brain drain did not constitute damage per se as it enabled new generations to be trained, thus incrementing the number of skilled officials; in general, there was a sense that many islanders were leaving their countries once they reached a certain threshold of expertise, but they could come back after having been exposed to international experience with even greater capacity to assist the country. More efforts should be made by national entities to attract and encourage skilled professionals to remain in their countries and to be part of the capacity-building exercises.

87. The United Nations system organizations, including the training institutes such as the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, together with the Governments and learning institutions of SIDS, should identify modalities to deliver capacity-building activities so as to mainstream the results into the national institutions, including civil society and the business sector. Strengthened capacities in the country would increase the resources nationally to overcome challenges related to preparedness for disasters or adaptation to climate change, among others.

88. Furthermore, the organizations of the United Nations system and the bilateral programmes of capacity-building from individual Member States (donors) should better coordinate their delivery so as to avoid duplication, overlapping and saturation. Coordination among donors themselves, and with the organizations of the United Nations system, could be reflected through coordination of internationally agreed support programmes, where the priority areas for capacity-building in SIDS would be defined with the countries, in line with their national and regional priorities. Such a pioneering approach could be launched as a pilot for SIDS and replicated at a much larger scale for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for all developing countries.

89. **The Inspector noted the important role of the resident coordinator system, as an inter-agency mechanism that brings together all the funds, programmes, specialized agencies, including non-resident agencies in some cases, in designing either national or subregional strategies taking into account the specific value added and possible synergies among them. This has led to the coordinated design of the regional strategies to be launched in the Pacific and the Caribbean, in consultation with Pacific Island Countries and Territories and CARICOM. The yearly resident coordinators' reports on UNDAF progress, as well as on country programmes for non-UNDAF countries, could serve as a more formal input into global reports on progress and results in advancing the SAMOA Pathway at the global level.**

[65] See www.unisdr.org/who-we-are/unisdr-in-un.

[66] See http://www.preventionweb.net/files/49076_unplanofaction.pdf.

90. Funds and programmes have made strong progress in aligning their planning cycles and linking their boards, which has had a clear impact in terms of a more coherent approach to delivering their activities. In response to the quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QCPR) of operational activities for development of the United Nations system,[67] they have undertaken deep reforms. Specialized agencies are governed under different legislative bodies and are not formally requested to follow QCPR, although they are encouraged to contribute to system-wide coherence. Efforts are being made to align reporting cycles of the different entities, and to harmonize reporting requirements and methodologies.

91. The team was able to observe during the field missions that the resident coordinator system has effectively contributed to consolidating the planning of activities in the field involving funds, programmes and specialized agencies under the umbrella of United Nations strategies (e.g. in the Pacific and in the Caribbean).

92. In Trinidad and Tobago, the presence of both a multi-country office and the subregional office of ECLAC strengthens the impact of delivering as one in the field, through increased cooperation among the different organizations of the system. The work of other subregional offices such as UNEP in Apia and Kingston and UNISDR in Suva contributes to strengthening coherence in the delivery of programmatic activities. The involvement of the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements with a presence at the regional or national level, such as the Basel Convention secretariat in Trinidad and Tobago, should also contribute to mainstreaming the environmental pillar of sustainable development into integrated strategic planning in the field. The secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions has created a network of focal points for SIDS, a good practice to facilitate the connection between the work done at headquarters and that undertaken in the field.[68]

93. Headquarters of organizations should ensure smooth connection with the field so as to decrease the reporting burden in the field, the focus of which should be specific delivery and implementation of mandates through effective and efficient capacity-building. The guidance notes prepared by the UNDG for operational activities and UNDAFs have proven to be an important element in streamlining and harmonizing planning in the field. This should be further strengthened through institutionalized articulation across the regional and subregional offices of the different entities,[69] jointly adopting the guidelines from UNDG. The principles developed by CEB to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda should also be embedded in the planning of capacity-building activities.[70]

94. OHRLLS, in accordance with its mandate, has successfully developed a network of national focal points to work with the least developed countries. The Office is considering setting up a network of national focal points for SIDS to strengthen the flow of information on United Nations processes and SIDS issues between SIDS capitals and United Nations headquarters, and to facilitate, as appropriate, the effective participation of SIDS representatives in United Nations intergovernmental processes. It would contribute to enhancing coherence on SIDS issues in United Nations processes at the national, regional, and global levels. **Should such a network of national focal points of SIDS be developed, it should be set up in close coordination with the Alliance of Small Island States, learning from the experience of OHRLLS and the least developed countries network, so as to benefit from lessons learned, identifying how such a network could be of benefit to SIDS.**

95. The meetings with different stakeholders revealed that there was a need for better coordination in planning and delivery of technical assistance to SIDS, not only among the United Nations system organization, but also with the partners involved in the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway. Multilateral donors and

[67] General Assembly resolution 67/226.

[68] See www.brsmeas.org/Implementation/TechnicalAssistance/RegionalFocalPoints/tabid/4610/language/en-US/Default.aspx.

[69] Subregional coordination should also involve the regional centres of environmental conventions, such as and the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.

[70] See www.unsceb.org/CEBPublicFiles/Common%20Principles%202030%20Agenda%20for%20Sustainable%20Development-27%20April%202016.pdf.

bilateral development partners deliver important programmes in support to SIDS. Improved collaboration between them and the United Nations system would ensure better use of resources, reduce overlap, help identify gaps, and strengthen the effectiveness of the work in support of SIDS.

96. Government officials from Barbados, Fiji, Mauritius, Samoa and Trinidad and Tobago underlined the reforms that had been put in place within their national planning structures to facilitate a centralized approach to the different incoming flows of official development aid and technical assistance projects. These reforms have been carried out to improve the organization and rationalize the delivery of the projects in order to align them with the national priorities. Such national coordination brings coherence to the distribution of support through the different areas to be addressed, covering programmes for young people and women, climate change, health and non-communicable diseases, education, disaster and emergency preparedness, among others.

97. **Considering the challenges and constraints expressed by representatives of SIDS, the donor community and officials of the United Nations system organizations, the Inspector invites development partners and non-United Nations system stakeholders supporting the sustainable development of SIDS to coordinate their efforts in planning the delivery of official development aid and technical assistance in close collaboration with the United Nations system so as to enhance the coherence of collective support for the sustainable development of SIDS.**

98. The implementation of the following recommendation would enable more effective and efficient planning and delivery of capacity-building and technical assistance support to SIDS.

Recommendation 4

The governing bodies of the United Nations system should request the organizations to coordinate the planning and implementation of their capacity-building activities in close consultation with the small island developing States and all partners for development so as to strengthen effectiveness and efficiency in providing support to achieve the goals defined in the SAMOA Pathway, while avoiding saturation of the absorptive capacity of SIDS at the country level.

C. National ownership of SAMOA Pathway implementation: the role of SIDS

99. The Sustainable Development Goals are owned by Member States. Achieving them depends on national ownership and the participation of all relevant stakeholders, at both the national and regional levels. While the United Nations system is a relevant partner to contribute to the process, the organization of mutually supportive strategies between SIDS is essential in accelerating the implementation of the Pathway and, above all, in ensuring its long-term sustainability.

100. In this context, government representatives indicated their availability to work with the United Nations system, as one more partner, in achieving their nationally and regionally agreed goals. Furthermore, they indicated that the role of their national entities in planning for and organizing the use of technical assistance, either from bilateral or multilateral donors on official development assistance or through support from organizations of the system, was essential to ensure that support was directed to the priority areas identified by the country. Such national coordination also helps to minimize gaps and reduce duplication of effort.

101. Development partners also shared with the team their views on this matter, noting that the lack of coordination among donors at the planning level in their capitals sometimes resulted in programmes being approved to provide support on similar issues in SIDS, without preliminary coordination.

102. Member States, be they development partners or SIDS, have a role to play in ensuring that resources are planned and allocated efficiently and effectively so as to coherently and consistently feed into the nationally owned development process. It was noted that in some cases, there were bottlenecks in delivery owing to the limited absorptive capacity of SIDS in handling and processing the projects from which they could receive technical assistance. Some development partners, as well as some officials from the organizations of the United Nations system, suggested that promoting and funding specific programmes to build project management capacities would be a fruitful investment for the countries to increase their absorptive capacity, thus accelerating their access to diverse modalities to implement the SAMOA Pathway.

Capacity of SIDS to absorb technical assistance programmes at the national level

103. The efforts of the United Nations system organizations to improve joint delivery and better align their plans to regional and national priorities would be worthless without careful attention to the absorptive capacity of the target beneficiaries at the national level.

104. The lack of coordination between the many different multilateral and bilateral development partners, including sometimes from within the United Nations system itself, resulted in some bottlenecks in terms of absorptive capacity on the recipient side. Furthermore, the uncoordinated missions of many different United Nations organizations visiting SIDS to deliver an ad hoc one-off activity with no further in situ follow-up did not result in the best use of resources, either on the delivering side or from the national perspective.

105. Cases were reported of some countries where the potential to receive technical assistance support was higher than the capacity to absorb the many different workshops and projects proposed by multilateral or bilateral partners. Small islands have a limited number of officials and stakeholders in charge of addressing the many development-related issues. As such, they are constantly invited to different conferences and workshops all over the world to share these experiences. Given the remoteness and poor connectivity of the islands, this implies long absences from the country. While they are travelling, progress in implementation and its monitoring at the national level lag behind.

106. Different stakeholders noted that SIDS, given that they share a common vulnerability regardless of their income level, could be better off in further developing the model of SIDS-SIDS collaboration, where the wealthiest could lead supportive programmes to build capacities, sharing knowledge and means of implementation, with the goal of taking more ownership of their development processes and establishing win-win frameworks in areas of common interest, such as connectivity, trade, education and health. In addition, linking production chains and benefiting from the market access conditions of least developed countries was also proposed in one of the interviews with representatives of the business sector. Innovative partnerships across SIDS, intra and interregional, do represent a potential for synergies into building sustainable paths in the longer term.

107. **The Inspector is of the view that greater coordination, not only within the United Nations system but also among bilateral and multilateral donors, regional organizations and development partners and SIDS themselves should be achieved so as to make better use of the global resources potentially available to SIDS for a higher impact and more effective delivery, resulting in sustained mainstreaming in national development capacities.**

SIDS-SIDS cooperation: leveraging the impact of joint resources and strategies

108. The GLISPA platform, established in 2006 to assist islands[71] in the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, is an example of how the islands can work together in advancing an issue of common

[71] Grenada, Palau and the Seychelles are key members of the platform, as their Heads of State are the leaders of the organization.

interest. This global partnership enables islands to work together to address common global challenges. The Convention on Biological Diversity has formally recognized GLISPA as a mechanism for advancing the conservation of island biodiversity.[72] As of May 2016, GLISPA has promoted 33 sustainability commitments adopted by one or more Governments, usually partnering with other GLISPA members.

109. Good practices on SIDS-SIDS collaboration have been established under different initiatives, some of worldwide coverage, others intraregional. Since 1992, the Singapore Cooperation Programme has contributed to sharing development experiences with other SIDS to strengthen their national capacities. Over the years, more than 8,800 SIDS government officials have been trained in diverse areas, such as sustainable development and climate change, public governance and economic development. Singapore also launched a three-year technical cooperation package for SIDS at the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held in Samoa in 2014, to provide senior SIDS officials with customized courses in relevant areas such as disaster management and non-traditional security, as well as fellowships in civil aviation and maritime courses in Singapore.[73]

110. The involvement of regional organizations and regional development banks is instrumental in facilitating the development of SIDS-SIDS cooperation, such as the Pharmaceutical Procurement Service in the Caribbean. This service created by the nine members of OECS facilitates affordable access to medicines by pooling the procurement and management of pharmaceutical and medical supplies for the public sector. The Service, created by OECS countries, aggregates country demands, issues a centralized tender and pays suppliers from the accounts of the countries at the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank. The OECS Service initially covered its operating costs by charging countries a 15 per cent surcharge on invoices. Consistent with the OECS Service policy to produce greater cost savings for Member States, the OECS ministers of health implemented a policy to reduce the surcharge to 13 per cent in 2005 and 11 per cent in 2007. WHO has assisted other regions, such as seven Fiji Islands and Southern and Eastern Africa, in replicating the OECS model.

111. **The Inspector is of the view that SIDS-SIDS cooperation should be further promoted and strengthened, counting on the support of regional organizations, regional development banks, and the continued support of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and other organizations of the United Nations system.**[74]

D. Financing for development: meeting the specific needs of SIDS

112. Better access to financing for development should be facilitated for SIDS, adapting the eligibility criteria to their vulnerability profiles and overcoming the constraints related to income level, since this is perceived as penalizing those countries that have reached an upper-middle or high income level,[75] thus no longer benefiting from preferential treatment.[76]

For more information, see http://glispa.org/about.

[72] See decision IX/21, CBD COP9: www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-09/cop-09-dec-21-en.pdf and decision XI/15, CBD COP1:1 www.cbd.int/decision/cop/default.shtml?id=13176.

[73] For more information, see https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=11344.

[74] See UNOSSC, "Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development" (May 2016). Available at http://ssc.undp.org/content/dam/ssc/documents/e-library%20docs/Good%20Practices%20in%20South-South%20and%20Triangular%20Cooperation%20for%20Sustainable%20Development(1).pdf.

[75] UN-OHRLLS, "Small Island Developing States in Numbers" (2013), p. 23. Available at http://unohrlls.org/custom-content/uploads/2014/04/SIDS_IN_NUMBERS_121813_FA_WEB.pdf.

[76] The need to accompany former least developed countries in the transition process to avoid disruption in the development process was addressed by the General Assembly in its resolution 67/221 on smooth transition for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries. See also JIU/REP/2016/3 on the potential benefits of a "genuine SIDS status" to foster coherent and targeted support for SIDS (paras. 88-89).

113. Only nine SIDS are least developed countries.[77] The others have, in most cases, reached a level of per capita income that makes them ineligible to concessional funding for development.[78] The graduation from LDC status remains a sensitive issue owing to the vulnerability of the gross national income of SIDS, one of the main criteria, which can vary dramatically as it is subject to the impact of natural disasters on the economy. Further consolidation of the vulnerability aspect in the graduation process could be envisaged in order to reduce the risk of graduating before having consolidated a durable trend of sustainable development and resilience to external shocks.[79]

114. In its resolution 70/215, the General Assembly recognized that middle-income countries still face significant challenges in achieving sustainable development and that, in order to ensure that achievements made to date are sustained, efforts to address ongoing challenges should be strengthened through the exchange of experiences, improved coordination and better and focused support of the United Nations development system, the international financial institutions, regional organizations and other stakeholders.

Adapting eligibility criteria to the vulnerability of SIDS

115. Member States representatives from SIDS and development partners expressed their willingness to facilitate access to financing for development for SIDS, as called for in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and in accordance with the goals of the 2030 Agenda. The team noted the very important role of GEF funding in SIDS,[80] and the essential interface that the United Nations accredited agencies play in supporting the preparation of funding proposals for SIDS. A number of them would like to become accredited at the national level in order to be in a position to access independently funding from GEF and the Green Climate Fund.[81] However, some development banks in the region informed the team about the limited capacity of SIDS to cope with the complexity, costs and burden of preparing GEF and Green Climate Fund proposals, indicating that few of them meet the stringent requirements for accreditation. The support of the United Nations system, particularly UNDP,[82] in assisting SIDS to overcome these barriers has been acknowledged by stakeholders in SIDS.[83]

116. The traditional criteria to access concessional funding are inadequate for SIDS. Special treatment for SIDS has been advocated for a long time without much progress,[84] in particular through the seminal work of UNCTAD, which was the first organization to address the specificity of SIDS as a case requiring special treatment.[85] Not only did SIDS representatives and national stakeholders report on the matter, but

[77] See Committee for Development Policy, "Handbook on the Least Developed Country Category: inclusion, graduation and special support measures" (2nd ed., Oct. 2015). Available at www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/cdp/cdp_publications/2015cdphandbook.pdf.

[78] There are exceptions, such as the World Bank small island economy exception, in place for small islands with fewer than 1.5 million people and that meet specific criteria on size, geography and credit-worthiness.

[79] The criteria for graduation also include the economic vulnerability index and the human asset index. None of the criteria include the specific environmental vulnerability of SIDS and their weak preparedness for disasters. See www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/cdp/ldc/ldc_criteria.shtml.

[80] The team noted the significant impact of the GEF Small Grants Programme in different SIDS and was able to observe the benefits in Mauritius with, among others, the project of the Association Kinouété at the Petit Verger prison linking climate change and social issues.

[81] See JIU/REP/2015/5 for further details on access to GEF and Green Climate Fund resources in the context of climate change activities.

[82] See the case of Samoa and the launch of a subregional strategy supported by the GEF Small Grants Programme. Available at www.ws.undp.org/content/samoa/en/home/presscenter/articles/2016/07/05/launch-of-the-new-sub-regional-strategy-of-the-undp-small-grants-programme-sgp-.html.

[83] In January 2015, WHO submitted a GEF proposal entitled "Building Resilience of Health Systems in Pacific Island LDCs to Climate Change" in Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. The project has been technically approved and disbursement of GEF funding is pending.

[84] See UNCTAD and the Indian Ocean Commission, "Addressing the vulnerabilities of Small Island Developing States more effectively" (2014). Available at http://commissionoceanindien.org/fileadmin/resources/PEID/Pledge_COI-CNUCED_26aug2014.pdf.

[85] See http://unctad.org/en/Pages/ALDC/Small%20Island%20Developing%20States/UN-recognition-of-the-problems-of-small-island-developing-States.aspx.

development partners also informed the team that they were not able to support as many capacity-building activities as they could afford owing to the ineligibility of some SIDS that were above the threshold for income level. Should the eligibility criteria be based on vulnerabilities, it would broaden the opportunities to support SIDS.

117. In 2015, UNDP reviewed the eligibility criteria for financing for development in the Caribbean SIDS,[86] and proposed a series of recommendations, including:

- SIDS-specific economic and environmental vulnerability should be considered as eligibility criteria for access to concessional finance;
- International financial institutions, regional development banks and bilateral donors should introduce eligibility categories based on vulnerability;
- Access to environmental and climate finance should be simplified for SIDS;
- Lenders should reassess graduation policies and how they impact on countries as they move from one category to another, with the objective of achieving a smoother transition path;
- Processes to access funding once it is approved should be expedited.

118. Similarly, a joint discussion paper from UNDP and OHRLLS on the subject called for revisiting the eligibility criteria for concessional finance from multilateral and bilateral lenders for all SIDS, proposing a basket of indicators to be used to determine the most appropriate financial instruments and levels of "concessionality" for different countries. The basket would include income per capita, vulnerability to shocks, capacity to mobilize domestic and international finance, level of debt, social indicators and type of programme being funded.[87] All these elements could be taken into account to respond to the mandate of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and facilitate more prompt and easier access to financing in support of SIDS.

119. In 2016, the independent team of advisers commissioned by the bureau of the Economic and Social Council to review the United Nations development system[88] recommended that the special needs of vulnerable middle-income countries should be addressed through other parameters than the use of per capita income. This is in line with the commitments emanating from the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, calling for special attention to support countries with special needs. **The Inspector recommends that Member States formulate new eligibility criteria that would broaden access to financing for development for SIDS beyond their income level. The definition of the new criteria should take stock of the positive experience of the World Bank exception for SIDS and the incorporation by the Caribbean Development Bank of "vulnerability" into its lending decisions.**[89]

120. The definition of the eligibility criteria could be established in close consultation with SIDS and the global and regional international financial institutions. One current initiative considering the issue of vulnerability is the World Bank-UNDP technical group, which is developing proposals and options on financing for development, in partnership with relevant stakeholders.[90] This technical working group is an informal arrangement that has been endorsed by the UNDP Administrator and the President of the World Bank. It was created as a result of the annual Small States Forum hosted by the World Bank. At the

[86] See UNDP, "Financing for development challenges in Caribbean SIDS: A case for review of eligibility criteria for access to concessional financing" (2015). Available at www.undp.org/content/dam/rblac/docs/Research%20and%20Publications/Poverty%20Reduction/UNDP_RBLAC_Financing_for_Development_ReportCaribbean.pdf.

[87] UNDP and UN-OHRLLS, "Financing for Development and Small Island Developing States: A snapshot and ways forward" (June 2015). Available at http://unohrlls.org/custom-content/uploads/2015/07/SIDS-lowres.pdf.

[88] See www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/files/en/qcpr/ita-findings-and-conclusions-16-jun-2016.pdf.

[89] The World Bank small island economy exception has been granted, in order to maintain their eligibility for International Development Association support, to the following SIDS: Cabo Verde, Dominica, Grenada, Kiribati, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. See http://ida.worldbank.org/about/borrowing-countries.

[90] The Small States Forum is hosted by the World Bank and includes UNDP, the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the core organizations taking forward the work of the Group.

October 2016 meeting, there was a commitment to take forward technical work on vulnerability and access to concessional finance for SIDS, coordinated by the World Bank Group and UNDP. The World Bank and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development have developed technical work to provide concessional funding to SIDS for climate and disaster resilience.[91]

121. The outcome of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Addis Ababa,[92] encouraged the Secretary-General to convene an inter-agency task force, which now comprises more than 50 organizations. In 2016, the Task Force issued an inaugural report that refers to the needs of SIDS.[93] In this regard, the Inspector considers that the organizations of the United Nations system, through their participation in the work of the Task Force, should contribute to the identification of eligibility criteria of system-wide applicability to facilitate financing for development for SIDS.[94] A commonly agreed set of eligibility criteria, overcoming the limits of those currently used, would strengthen system-wide coherence of the work of the United Nations and pave the way for accelerated modalities of implementation of action in support to the sustainable development of the small islands, regardless their income level. **The Inspector is of the view that the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development should report on progress and make proposals for revised criteria, addressing gaps and challenges, as part of the annual report of the Task Force, no later than 2019, using the intergovernmental set-up of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and of the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up.**

122. An area of particular interest for all SIDS regions is insurance schemes, which are unaffordable for small stakeholders. Noting that SIDS are exposed to high risks, the United Nations system and partners should support them in strengthening their access to insurance schemes, as pointed out in the Asia-Pacific Regional Millennium Development Goal Report 2014/15,[95] as well as in the Sendai Framework and the Paris Agreement. Joint initiatives are already in place in AIMS region. The issue of risk insurance was addressed by stakeholders during the visits to SIDS, raising the difficulties of accessing insurance coverage for smallholders and the complexity for the Governments of ensuring such a coverage through insurance schemes in order to mitigate damage in the reconstruction processes in the wake of natural disasters. It was noted that stronger support was needed on this matter to facilitate access to SIDS and to strengthen their capacities on this subject, so as to possibly benefit from opportunities available to them from the international community.[96]

123. A timely consideration of the following recommendation is necessary to ensure more effective implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and other global mandates of high relevance to SIDS within the overarching framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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[91] See Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and World Bank, "Climate and Disaster Resilience Financing in Small Island Developing States" (2016). Available at http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264266919-en.

[92] General Assembly resolution 69/313.

[93] *Addis Ababa Action Agenda — Monitoring commitments and actions* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.16.I.7). Available at www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Report_IATF-2016-full.pdf.

[94] See the note by the Secretary-General on monitoring commitments and actions in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (E/FFDF/2016/2).

[95] The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Asian Development Bank, UNDP, "Making it happen: Technology, finance and statistics for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific: Asia-Pacific Regional MDG Report 2014/15". Available at https://issuu.com/undpasiapacific/docs/rbap-rmdg-report-2014-2015/1?ff=true&e=12004137/13389560.

[96] The ISLANDS Financial Protection Programme is jointly implemented by the Indian Ocean Commission, UNISDR, and the World Bank. It is a regional programme involving five of the member States and island territories of the Indian Ocean Commission, aimed at mitigating the financial consequences of natural disasters and is based on the concept of risk financing and the associated risk transfer mechanism.

Recommendation 5

The executive heads of the United Nations system should ensure the participation of their organizations in the process led by the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development to actively contribute to addressing the specificity of SIDS as a special case with tailor-made solutions, and should also ensure that new parameters of eligibility are designed for better access to financing for development for SIDS.

124. It should be noted that no improvement in coherence and efficiency of system-wide support delivery could be achieved without securing the necessary resources for effective implementation of the SAMOA Pathway. It is important that this pioneer mandate, which preceded the 2030 Agenda as a blueprint for the sustainable development of SIDS, does not get lost in translation through the overarching prioritization of the 2030 Agenda over other global mandates. **The Inspector is of the view that, in the process of rethinking the architecture and resources of the United Nations development system in the context of the 2030 Agenda, resources should be clearly allocated to support the needs of SIDS to implement the SAMOA Pathway, including for the remaining priority areas and strategies of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy, not yet achieved.**

125. Resources should be defined and allocated within time-bound work programmes so that planning can be done on the basis of reliable resources. The efforts involved in deploying strategies for resource mobilization imply high transaction costs for the secretariats of the United Nations system organizations to mitigate the shortage of core resources. This is particularly relevant to organizations such as UNISDR the core mandate of which is of tremendous importance to SIDS, which have a tiny part of core resources with which to implement the Sendai Framework. Similarly, the Paris Agreement is associated with several funding mechanisms, such as the Green Climate Fund and the Adaptation Fund. However, the processes for benefiting from these sources of funding are very cumbersome for SIDS.

126. Member States should consider ways and means to define fast-track facilitating procedures for SIDS to access financing for development in shorter time frames and through more manageable procedures. The United Nations system organizations and their partners should continue supporting SIDS institutions - Governments and other national stakeholders - in preparing financial requests and project proposals so as to facilitate access to these targeted sources of funding.

127. Partnerships between the United Nations system organizations and non-United Nations regional organizations and entities, such as Pacific Island Countries and Territories, PIF, SPREP and the CROP in the Pacific, CARICOM in the Caribbean, the Indian Ocean Commission and the Indian Ocean Rim Association in AIMS region, should be strengthened in planning and implementing more coherent system-wide support for SIDS for an accelerated modality of implementation of the SAMOA Pathway. Together they could identify the gaps to be filled and estimate the resources needed to address them, and work in close collaboration with SIDS and their development partners to set up arrangements for predictable multi-year funding in support of capacity-building for sustainable development in SIDS.

128. The implementation of the following recommendation would contribute to securing resource allocation to facilitate the implementation of sustainable development-related global mandates in support of SIDS.

Recommendation 6

The governing bodies of the United Nations system organizations should encourage the allocation of predictable multi-year funding to facilitate the effective implementation of programmatic activities in support of the small island developing States, based on needs assessments prepared by the United Nations system organizations in consultation with SIDS and their relevant partners.

III. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY: INSTITUTIONAL SET-UP FOR MONITORING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

129. The present chapter addresses the scope of recommendation 5 contained in report JIU/REP/2015/2, which states that:

> **The General Assembly should ensure that the comprehensive review analyses the institutional set-up in place in accordance with paragraphs 122 to 124 of the SAMOA Pathway and the coordination process aimed at monitoring and reporting on its effective implementation, with a view to preventing overlap and fostering synergies across the United Nations system.**

130. In paragraphs 122 to 124, the SAMOA Pathway underlines the relevance of a monitoring and accountability framework to ensure the implementation of a transformational strategy for the sustainable development of SIDS. Specific reference is made to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, with their subsidiary bodies, the high-level political forum (HLPF) on sustainable development and the regional commissions. DESA is requested to maintain a partnerships platform and to regularly convene the meetings of the Inter-Agency Consultative Group on Small Island Developing States (IACG).[97]

131. Since 2014, when the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States took place, other global mandates, among them the overarching global mandate on sustainable development established in General Assembly resolution 70/1, have been adopted and, as a result, the complexity of a system-wide accountability framework for sustainable development issues has grown exponentially. The present chapter aims to provide some guidance on the linkages among different processes to be accounted for and the most effective approaches in order to avoid an overwhelming reporting burden to the detriment of effective implementation, in particular for SIDS with limited resources to engage with multiple parallel reporting exercises.[98] In fact, the analysis of the specificity of SIDS could be extrapolated at a broader scale in identifying the challenges for the system-wide accountability and monitoring framework for global mandates in general, considering the SIDS case vis-à-vis the SAMOA Pathway as a blueprint for all United Nations members vis-à-vis the 2030 Agenda.

Accountability and monitoring framework on SIDS priorities

132. Within the evolving environment of the reform of the United Nations development system and its accountability framework, the definition of the monitoring and accountability framework for the SAMOA Pathway is to be addressed in close interaction with the development of the monitoring and accountability framework for SDGs and the 2030 Agenda. Indicators and reporting tools for SIDS should be adapted to the monitoring of the SAMOA Pathway and its implementation. The outcome of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States addressed the specific needs of SIDS, anticipating the transition from Millennium Development Goals to SDGs, identifying their priorities so as to ensure that the goals would be mainstreamed in the global agenda.

133. The monitoring and accountability function of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and HLPF could not be effectively performed without the system-wide transversal coordination and the

[97] The assessment of the functioning and reform of IACG has been addressed in JIU/REP/2016/3 and will not be repeated in the present report.

[98] See annexes IA and IB for the linkages between the SAMOA Pathway priority areas and means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

vertical integration of the information across the United Nations system and from the national, regional and global levels.[99]

134. The team noted during the field interviews with representatives of SIDS the significant progress that had taken place in terms of national strategic planning. Effective coordination among ministries and alignment to regional priorities was duly accounted for in the establishment of internal methodologies to report on sustainable development issues of interest for the countries.

135. SIDS have embedded lessons learned from the experience of the Millennium Development Goals and have strengthened their internal planning framework in line with results-based management and strategic planning methodologies. However, the Inspector heard some concerns from the countries on the following aspects:

- Insufficient national human capacity in government structures to address all reporting requirements;
- Weak statistical capacity to establish baselines for monitoring and reporting on implementation;[100]
- Variety of reporting requirements from official development assistance partners and international organizations, of which the United Nations is only one partner;
- Lack of consideration of the specificities of SIDS in the definition of global indicators for measuring progress;
- Insufficient alignment of United Nations regional and national strategic plans for the regions to the regional plans endorsed by the political forums of the regions, such as PIF and CARICOM.

136. An example of good practices in terms of collaboration to assist the national authorities in planning, monitoring and reporting was noted in Mauritius, where UNDP and the national Government shared the time and cost of one member of staff who was assisting in the national planning processes, ensuring linkages with the reporting needs of United Nations processes to monitor progress on the key priorities areas identified by the country.

137. The Inspector also noted positive trends in the other SIDS regions. In the Pacific, the two multi-country offices of Fiji and Samoa[101] have undertaken extensive national consultative processes involving each single State or territory served by the resident coordinator offices, so as to ensure that the forthcoming United Nations strategic plan for the Pacific is based on a participatory process involving all relevant national stakeholders and in close consultation with the regional institutions such as PIF and its CROPS organizations. Effort has been put into integrating the United Nations and non-United Nations processes in implementing a development strategy that is aligned with the Framework for Pacific Regionalism and is expected to result in a consolidated five-year plan endorsed by the Governments of the region. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is also involved in the process, providing support on some specific areas that are instrumental for monitoring and accountability, such as strengthening of statistical capacities at the national and regional levels.

138. Similarly, the Caribbean is also preparing its regional strategy, resulting from a UNDG-led process in close consultation with the regional and subregional offices of the regional commissions, the multi-country and national resident coordinators offices and the national representatives of SIDS in the regions. Regional and national stakeholders from government, civil society, the business sector and academia, as well as other international development partners, are consulted in the process.

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[99] See elements of the architectural framework for the exercise of monitoring and accountability in annex III.

[100] For information in the area of national capacities in statistics, see the JIU report entitled "Evaluation of the contribution of the United Nations development system to strengthening national capacities for statistical analysis and data collection to support the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals" (JIU/REP/2016/5). See www.unjiu.org/en/reports-notes/JIU%20Products/JIU_REP_2016_5_Final_English.pdf

[101] These two multi-country offices cover 14 SIDS.

139. The regional commissions are playing an important role as part of the monitoring and accountability framework. In the Caribbean, a new intergovernmental entity will function under the auspices of the ECLAC, to contribute to the monitoring framework for regional and subregional monitoring of follow-up of the 2030 Agenda. The Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development will report to the HLPF.[102]

140. The Inspector acknowledges the existing collaboration between the multi-country resident coordinator office in Trinidad and Tobago and the subregional office of ECLAC. The two have established alternate chairing of the UNCT meetings to ensure synergies and coherence in planning, implementing, monitoring and reporting the activities for the subregion. Increased coherence in reporting is also developed through the development of regional UNDAFs: the United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework in the Caribbean and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for the Pacific.

141. At Headquarters, the steering committee on partnerships for SIDS, co-serviced by DESA and OHRLLS, has been launched, as well as the platform on partnerships, in compliance with paragraph 124 of the SAMOA Pathway and General Assembly resolution 70/202. In this regard, the Inspector invites the Secretariat to continue the support work, and the Member States to take into account the added burden on resources when planning the budgetary cycle for 2018-2019. In September 2016, under the auspices of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and with support from DESA, the first annual global multi-stakeholder partnership dialogue for SIDS took place. It was an opportunity to follow up on the implementation of partnership commitments that resulted from the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held in Samoa in 2014, and to launch a publication on the role of partnerships in the sustainable development of SIDS.[103]

142. The Inspector notes the positive trend of the current reforms in setting, monitoring and reporting structures in the field. Yet, there is room for improvement in institutionalizing the collaboration between regional policy forums in the SIDS regions and ensuring that the burden on SIDS national systems to report is commensurate with their capacities. **In this regard, the United Nations system should consolidate the support it provides to strengthen these capacities, while adapting the requirements for reporting to the specific profiles of these countries. The approach taken by UNISDR in developing indicators for the monitoring of implementation of the Sendai Framework, taking into account the specificities of SIDS, connecting the issues of disaster risk reduction and climate change, is a good practice that could be replicated in defining the accountability frameworks for other global mandate-related indicators.**

143. UNISDR has worked with stakeholders and development partners in the Pacific and has prepared the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific to assist in the monitoring and reporting of progress made in implementing the Sendai Framework. The outcome was endorsed at the 47th meeting of the leaders of the Pacific Islands Forum, held in Pohnpei in the Federated States of Micronesia in September 2016.[104] It was considered at the seventh session of the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management, held in Suva from 24 to 26 October 2016. Similar work was prepared for AIMS region, where the sixth session of the Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and the fifth High-Level Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction were held in Mauritius from 22 to 25 November 2016.

144. **The United Nations system, building upon the work of the regional commissions and the United Nations Statistical Commission, should continue to assist SIDS in compiling accurate data in order to establish reliable baselines from which to measure progress on implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, SDGs, the Sendai Framework and other global mandates.**

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[102] See www.cepal.org/en/news/forum-countries-latin-america-and-caribbean-sustainable-development-will-follow-2030-agenda.

[103] See https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2364Publication%202016%20read.pdf.

[104] Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific: An Integrated Approach to Address Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management, 2017-2030. Available at www.pacificdisaster.net/dox/FRDP_2016_Resilient_Dev_pacific.pdf.

145. In this regard, the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators is instrumental in ensuring coherence in defining the accountability framework and monitoring skills to report on implementation of the different development-related mandates, in accordance with the Group's terms of reference, which require it to:

> Develop an indicator framework and a list of indicators for the monitoring of the goals and targets of the post-2015 development agenda at the global level, taking into account existing efforts by different groups of countries and organizations, including regional and international agencies, regional commissions, academia, civil society and other relevant international organizations, to be adopted by the Statistical Commission at its 47th session in 2016.[105]

146. The Inspector notes that Bahrain, Cabo Verde, Cuba, Fiji, Jamaica and Samoa are members of the Group.[106] The Inspector encourages the three SIDS regions represented on that body to take advantage of their membership to ensure that the constraints and needs of SIDS are taken into consideration and mainstreamed in the definition of the indicators. Such strategic positioning of SIDS in the process would facilitate coherence in the linkages of monitoring and reporting on the two mandates, the 2030 Agenda and the SAMOA Pathway.

147. The official development aid community should also strive with development partners to develop reporting schemes that take into account the constraints and vulnerability inherent to SIDS so as to facilitate their reporting related to the assistance provided to them by bilateral and multilateral donors, including reporting frameworks from international and regional financial institutions.

148. Noting that QCPR of operational activities for development of the United Nations system is to be considered at the 71st session of the General Assembly,[107] the Inspector is of the view that a monitoring and accountability framework to report on the SAMOA Pathway should be in line with the outcome of the resolution concerning the QCPR that is to be adopted during that session, and with other processes under definition within the rethinking of the United Nations development system for increased coherence and harmonization of reporting processes. The case of SIDS should be addressed taking into account the group priorities, in accordance with their regional strategies and those included in the SAMOA Pathway. The results of the Economic and Social Council dialogues[108] and the recommendations of the independent team of advisers commissioned by the Council should also be taken into account when defining the monitoring and accountability framework for SIDS reporting on progress on the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 Agenda.

149. The specialized agencies, as well as funds and programmes, have an important role to play at the operational level. The Inspector therefore invites them to align with the principles and reporting frameworks that would facilitate enhanced system-wide coherence, aligning planning cycles and reporting methodologies to facilitate system-wide evaluation of progress made in the implementation of the global mandates inherent to the achievement of sustainable development. Economic and Social Council resolution 2016/20 makes reference to the role of the specialized agencies in supporting some small island Non-Self-Governing Territories, emphasizing their vulnerability to natural disasters, including sea-level rise. The resolution invites all organizations of the United Nations system to provide assistance to those fragile territories in order to improve the social and economic conditions of their peoples, and welcomes the continuing efforts made by UNDP in maintaining a close liaison between the specialized agencies, the regional commissions and other organizations of the system. An effective monitoring and accountability

[105] See terms of reference of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, para. 1 (a). Available at http://unstats.un.org/files/IAEG-SDGs%20-%20Terms%20of%20Reference%20(April%202015).pdf.

[106] See http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/members.

[107] See A/71/292/Rev.1.

[108] The follow-up and review mechanism of the regional commissions has been put in place to systematically monitor the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, with particular attention to the nexus between the national, regional and global levels of implementation. See www.un.org/ecosoc/en/content/phase-2.

framework on development assistance for SIDS should take into account this resolution to ensure that no SIDS are left behind.

150. United Nations system entities should continue to assist SIDS in building national capacities with respect to data collection and analysis so as to facilitate national ownership and use of the information to monitor progress on national sustainable development. National monitoring and reporting frameworks on the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway should be aligned with the overall accountability frameworks of the 2030 Agenda. The work being undertaken within the United Nations Statistical Commission should ensure that the capacity and specificity of SIDS is taken into consideration in defining the requirements to monitor and report on progress made on Sustainable Development Goals and the priorities defined by the SAMOA Pathway.

151. A selection of priority indicators relating to the specificities of SIDS should be agreed upon, in line with national and regional priorities. The monitoring and accountability framework should also be connected to the follow-up review framework being used by the regional commissions to monitor and report on the 2030 Agenda.[109] Mechanisms in place on compliance and monitoring of the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements should also be considered in the global monitoring framework to report on implementation of the SAMOA Pathway. Considering the limited national capacities and existing data baselines in SIDS, it is essential that the United Nations system organizations make a special effort to facilitate reporting procedures for these States in order to avoid the burden of multiple-reporting procedures.

152. The implementation of the following recommendations would strengthen the accountability and monitoring framework to follow up on the implementation of the sustainable development agenda of SIDS defined through the SAMOA Pathway, the Mauritius Strategy and the Barbados Programme of Action, within the context of the 2030 Agenda and other relevant global mandates that are particularly relevant to SIDS.

Recommendation 7

The legislative and governing bodies of the United Nations system organizations should ensure, based on the ongoing work of the United Nations Statistical Commission and, when relevant, on the work of the inter-agency forums and expert groups created to advise Member States, that the specificity of SIDS is explicitly considered in defining the elements of monitoring and accountability frameworks to report on progress made on the Sustainable Development Goals, so that processes and indicators are adapted to their needs and priorities identified at the national and regional levels.

Recommendation 8

The governing bodies of the United Nations system organizations should coordinate their efforts in designing monitoring and accountability frameworks and tools adapted to the capacity of SIDS to monitor and report on the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and other sustainable development-related global mandates, while avoiding the burden of multiple reporting frameworks.

[109] See https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/8993RCNYO.pdf.

IV. MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION OF SIDS-RELATED ISSUES BETWEEN DESA AND OHRLLS

153. The present chapter provides updates on the more recent developments undertaken within the Secretariat to strengthen internal coordination, foster synergies, avoid overlap and increase transparency in communicating with Member States, addressing the scope of recommendation 6 contained in report JIU/REP/2015/2, which states that[110]

> **The General Assembly should ensure that the comprehensive review addresses institutional and managerial mechanisms for strengthening coordination between DESA and OHRLLS in performing the tasks related to their respective mandates on support to SIDS, in order to avoid overlap and enhance the effectiveness of their work, and to increase transparency in their communication with Member States.**

Evolution of the institutional set-up and managerial mechanisms between the SIDS units of DESA and OHRLLS

154. Part of the difficulty for DESA and OHRLLS in providing effective support and transparent information originates from the potential overlap in interpreting the mandates given to the Secretariat. It is advisable that in defining new tasks in the future, the mandates be clear in terms of responsibilities and expected outcomes and, to the extent possible, that they be tied to adequate provision of resources to ensure their implementation.[111]

155. Since January 2015, when JIU initiated the preparation of its report JIU/REP/2015/2, a significant number of actions have been taken within the United Nations Secretariat to better fulfil Member States' expectations. Actions have been taken in line with JIU recommendations contained in JIU/REP/2016/3 concerning the management of the Inter-Agency Consultative Group on Small Island Developing States and improved communication with Member States.

Collaboration between DESA and OHRLLS

156. DESA and OHRLLS have taken concrete steps to institutionalize their collaboration for enhanced effectiveness in delivering support to SIDS and transparency in communicating to Member States.

157. This has been formalized through an internal agreement at directors' level[112] in order to better plan and coordinate delivery of their activities, within the realm of their respective mandates. DESA and OHRLLS have agreed to convene periodic meetings at directors' level and have committed to convene joint events. They have also started issuing joint invitation letters to meeting participants signed by the Under-Secretary-General of DESA and the High Representative of OHRLLS. This has already resulted in the organization of side events in the context of global conferences, such as a round table at the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, and preparations for the third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development. For the latter, the two offices co-organized and co-funded a joint side event and concept notes. Funding has been shared, with DESA funding the participation of SIDS representatives at the Aruba Conference on Public-Private Partnerships, organized by OHRLLS in collaboration with the Government of Aruba.[113]

158. The two SIDS units have joined forces to prepare the United Nations Secretariat contribution to the forthcoming high-level conference to support the implementation of SDG 14 on the oceans, which was initially planned to be hosted by Fiji in 2017. However, the General Assembly, in its resolution 70/303,

[110] The present chapter updates the information provided as finding 5 in report A/71/267/Add.1.

[111] Issues already addressed in JIU/REP/2016/3, pp. 4-6, concerning DESA and OHRLLS, will not be repeated in the present chapter.

[112] Information provided by the United Nations Secretariat.

[113] See www.p3a.org/conference.

formalized the change of venue, acknowledging the devastation caused in Fiji by Tropical Cyclone Winston, which struck the nation in February 2016. Servicing the conference in New York will most likely mean that additional support services will be provided by the two Units to assist SIDS in preparing their participation and attendance.

159. DESA and OHRLLS have introduced alternate co-chairing of the Inter-Agency Consultative Group on Small Island Developing States. DESA has indicated that new members have joined the Group, including representatives of environmental conventions (the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions) and representatives from resident coordinator offices. Staff members from other branches of DESA are also included, a positive sign that collaboration among divisions is being strengthened in support of SIDS. The inclusion of a new non-United Nations institutional member has also been reported, with the participation of the secretariat of the Pacific Islands Development Forum.[114]

160. General Assembly resolution 70/202 led to the creation of the steering committee on partnerships for SIDS. Both DESA and OHRLLS have been tasked with servicing the steering committee, within their respective mandates. All meetings are attended by both offices; OHRLLS focuses on private sector partnerships, while DESA focuses on the maintenance of the SIDS Partnerships Platform, the preparation of reporting templates and overall guidance on the process for partnerships. In doing so, DESA is ensuring coherence between the reporting processes on partnerships for SDGs and for the SAMOA Pathway. Since April 2016 the two online platforms, Partnerships for SDGs[115] and SIDS Action Platform,[116] the SIDS partnerships database, are fully integrated.[117]

161. One of the concrete results of the regular meetings between the directors of the two offices is the joint launch of a quarterly SIDS e-Newsletter[118] informing Member States and the United Nations system and other stakeholders about most recent developments on SIDS-related issues. The IACG inputs feed into the preparation of the SIDS newsletter.[119] Efforts made by the two SIDS units of the Secretariat in improving their collaboration have led to an amelioration in delivering for SIDS, to the extent possible under two separate subprogrammes of the United Nations Secretariat. Further streamlining of coordination would require reconsideration by Member States of the respective subprogrammes.

162. Efforts towards harmonization and coherence have led to progress resulting in the establishment of a common list of SIDS for the Secretariat. DESA[120] and OHRLLS[121] include as SIDS all the members of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) and the associate members of regional commissions.[122] The only exception is Bahrain, which for the time being is included in the OHRLLS SIDS list and not in that of DESA (see annex V).

163. A common SIDS list should serve as a basis to further develop a coherent United Nations system approach for targeted and preferential support to small island developing States and to foster more effective accelerated modalities of implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the SAMOA Pathway.

164. The outcome of the expert group meeting on coherence held in November 2015 in New York,[123] organized by OHRLLS, included a constructive proposal to establish a network of focal points in SIDS, following the experience of OHRLLS in addressing least developed countries. **In order to create a stable**

[114] See annex IV for the updated membership of the Group, as at October 2016.
[115] See https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnerships/
[116] See www.sids2014.org/
[117] Information provided by the United Nations Secretariat.
[118] See www.sids2014.org/newsletter.
[119] Ibid.
[120] See https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/sids/list.
[121] See http://unohrlls.org/about-sids/country-profiles.
[122] Niue and Cook Islands are members of specialized agencies and are associate members of regional commissions.
[123] See http://unohrlls.org/custom-content/uploads/2016/07/Report_EGM_Coherence-of-SIDS-Issues-in-UN-Processes.pdf.

long-term mechanism that would contribute to building a more robust framework for monitoring the status of implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, the Inspector encourages Member States to consider providing adequate resources to consolidate the progress made and enable DESA and OHRLLS to better implement their mandates in support of SIDS.

165. The current collaboration between the two SIDS units of the Secretariat has reduced gaps and increased synergies. It has also led to better monitoring and information-sharing on activities related to the implementation of SAMOA Pathway. The launch of the SIDS Newsletter facilitates dissemination of information, however, it cannot be seen as a substitute for interactive communication with representatives of Member States. The Inspector encourages the Secretariat to establish a more regular and interactive line of communication with Member States, particularly with the representatives of AOSIS, so that their needs and queries can be more promptly addressed and so that they can receive regular updates on issues relevant to SIDS.

166. While notable improvement has been achieved under the current institutional set-up, splitting resources between two different SIDS units of the Secretariat might not be the optimal structure for effective and efficient management. Looking forward, a possible reform of the organizational and managerial set-up should be assessed internally within the Secretariat, in close consultation with AOSIS members and their development partners, and presented to the General Assembly for consideration. However, the Secretariat noted that any reform of the current institutional set-up would require a formal change of the current programmes and subprogrammes structure defined under the United Nations Strategic Framework.[124]

167. The findings of the comprehensive review indicate that improvement has happened and confirm an ongoing trend towards further strengthening the collaboration between the two SIDS units of the Secretariat, in line with their complementary roles as delineated in the SAMOA Pathway, under the current institutional set-up. The Inspector believes that communication on progress made in this regard could be improved. The implementation of the following recommendation would enhance transparency and accountability while providing Member States with regular information on how the Secretariat at Headquarters coordinates its work in support of SIDS.

Recommendation 9

The Secretary-General should present to the General Assembly, as part of his report on follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, a summary of actions taken and planned to strengthen the coordination and complementarity of the work of DESA and OHRLLS in support of SIDS.

[124] Currently DESA is Programme 7 and UN-OHRLLS is Programme 8, and the SIDS unit are included under their relevant subprogrammes (see A/69/6 (Part one) and Corr.1). Any change of the institutional structure would need, inter alia, to be considered by the Committee for Programme and Coordination.

V. CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD

168. The Inspector notes with appreciation that some of the recommendations issued in the initial findings of the comprehensive review (JIU/REP/2016/3) are already under implementation at the Secretariat, particularly those concerning the management of the Inter-Agency Consultative Group on Small Island Developing States,[125] improved collaboration between the SIDS units of DESA and OHRLLS and their progress towards the harmonization of a common SIDS list.

169. The present report has reviewed the contribution of the United Nations system organizations in accordance with their respective mandates in support of SIDS, with particular focus on field activities, and has identified good practices and areas for further improvement.

170. The analysis of the support provided by the United Nations system to implement the SAMOA Pathway reveals that strong efforts and a myriad of activities are taking place at the operational level in SIDS. Good practices were identified as the result of the initiatives of resident coordinators with the support of the organizations of the United Nations system, in collaboration with national and regional stakeholders, in the countries. In the Caribbean and the Pacific, under the leadership and guidance of the resident coordinator system and the United Nations Development Group, subregional strategies are under definition, in close consultation with SIDS representatives at the national and regional levels. The support to the Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Seas region is not so strongly coordinated owing to its geographical dispersion and absence of a regional forum representing the region's development strategy.

171. The trends indicate that the organizations of the United Nations system have progressed in delivering as one in the field as a way of making more efficient use of their resources, implementing targeted joint programmes and addressing issues that fall under their respective mandates through a mutually supportive strategy. The constraints resulting from the different reporting systems and goals, rooted in the original silo approach of the uncoordinated strategic plans of the organizations, are still present and should be addressed so as to allow the organizations to work together more effectively in support of SIDS in the field.

172. The ongoing reform of the United Nations development system in the context of the United Nations Fit for Purpose for the Post-2015 Development Agenda initiative should identify solutions for more agile governance that would create a more flexible framework for the organizations to deliver in the field, taking a prompt and coherent responsive approach. The establishment of multi-year, multi-agency financing tools to facilitate planning and predictability would reinforce the ongoing process of strengthened collaboration at the country and subregional levels in the SIDS regions.

173. Alongside its findings, the report contains hard and soft recommendations, aiming at:

- Ensuring a coordinated approach to the mainstreaming of priorities of the SAMOA Pathway in organizations' strategic plans and encouraging sufficient and predictable resources (see recommendation 1);
- Ensuring that the strategic plans and work programmes of the organizations of the United Nations system include specific objectives related to the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway to be measured against a set of established key performance indicators (see recommendation 2);
- Encouraging the alignment of the activities of the organizations of the United Nations system in support of sustainable development of SIDS with the regional priorities identified by the Governments of these States, their regional organizations and their development partners (see recommendation 3);
- Improving the coordination in the planning and implementation of the capacity-building activities of the United Nations system organizations, in close consultation with SIDS and all partners for

[125] See annex IV for the updated membership of the Group.

development, taking into account national absorptive capacity, for enhanced coherence in building national capacities in SIDS (see recommendation 4);

- Ensuring the participation of the United Nations system organizations in the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development to actively contribute to addressing the specificity of SIDS as a special case with tailor-made solutions (see recommendation 5);
- Encouraging the allocation of predictable multi-year funding to facilitate the effective implementation of programmatic activities in support of small island developing States (see recommendation 6);
- Ensuring that the specificity of SIDS is explicitly considered in defining the elements of monitoring and accountability frameworks to report on progress made on the Sustainable Development Goals (see recommendation 7);
- Coordinating the efforts of United Nations system organizations in designing monitoring and accountability frameworks and tools adapted to the capacity of SIDS to monitor and report on implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and other sustainable development-related global mandates, avoiding the burden of multiple reporting frameworks (see recommendation 8);
- Improving communication to Member States on progress made by DESA and OHRLLS in working together in support of SIDS (see recommendation 9).

174. The Inspector encourages Member States and all the development partners of SIDS to take into account the findings of this comprehensive review and to contribute to increased and more coherent collaboration among them so as to foster the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, taking into account its linkages with other United Nations global mandates.

175. It is worth recalling that between February 2015 and October 2016, natural disasters had a devastating impact on the populations of several SIDS in terms of their economy, infrastructure damage, internal displacement and loss of life, inter alia. Tropical Cyclones Pam in February 2015 and Winston in February 2016 severely affected SIDS in the Pacific. In October 2016, Hurricane Matthew struck Haiti, entailing massive destruction of buildings and crops, death of hundreds of inhabitants, and the spread of waterborne diseases.

176. Joint efforts are required to coherently assist SIDS in strengthening their resilience and preparedness for disasters and climate change and to address the potential negative impact on SIDS sustainable development. Risks are high; prevention and resilience-building should be reinforced through a coordinated partnership between all relevant stakeholders.

177. The governing bodies of the United Nations system organizations should continue to accelerate the modalities of implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, the Mauritius Strategy and the Barbados Programme of Action in support of SIDS, from their participation in the intergovernmental process and through their action at the national and regional levels in their countries. Development partners should also ensure better coordination in delivering official development aid to SIDS so as to avoid duplication, and should coherently and efficiently target those areas where more support is needed.

178. The Inspector encourages Member States and the executive heads of the organizations to keep up the momentum to devote to SIDS the specific attention they deserve, given their unique vulnerability, ensuring that they will not be left behind in implementing the sustainable development global mandates, through the lenses of the priorities established in the SAMOA Pathway, the Mauritius Strategy and the Barbados Programme of Action.

Annex I: Linkages between priority areas and means of implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the Sustainable Development Goals - 2030 Agenda

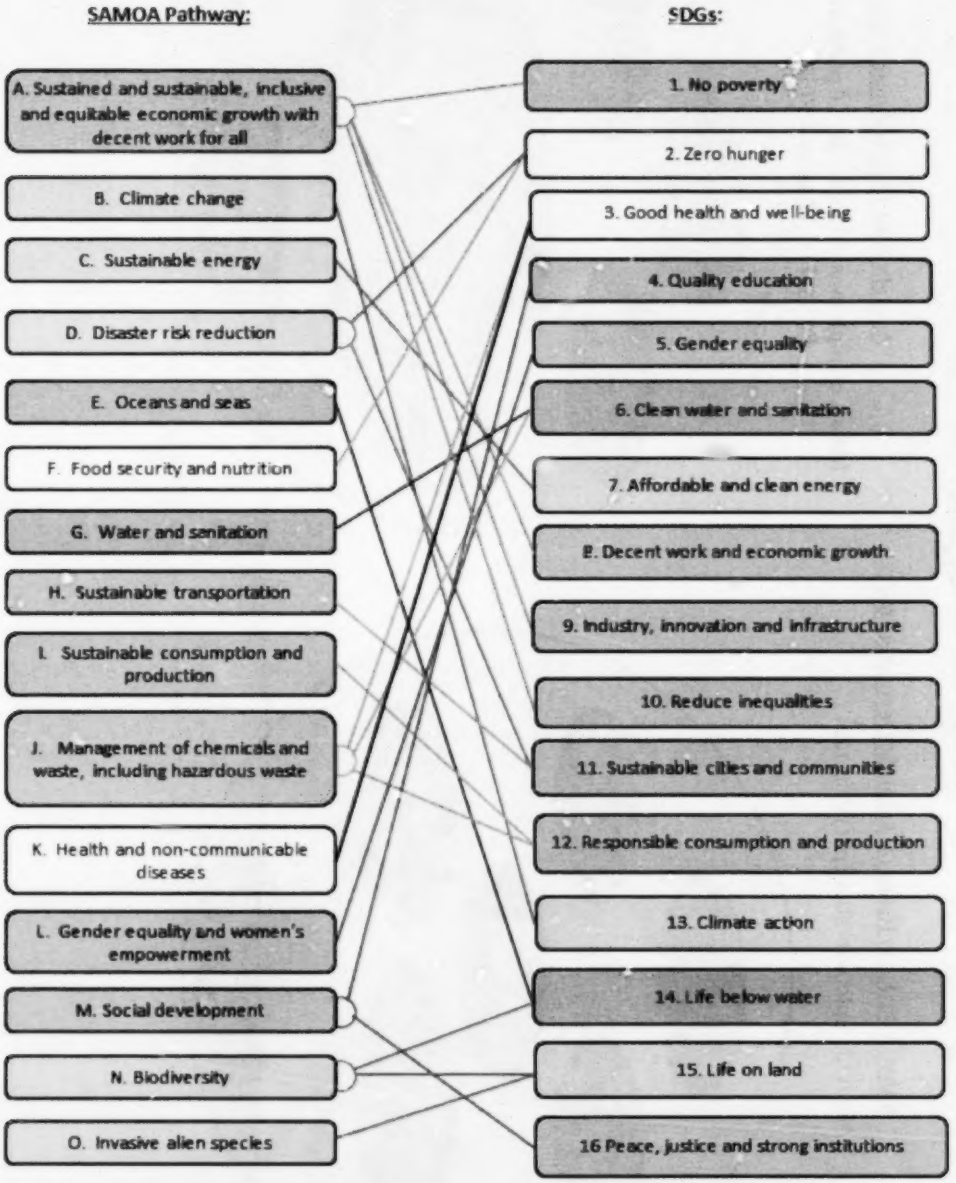
Annex I-A

SAMOA Pathway (Resolution 69/15)	2030 AGENDA (Resolution 70/1)
Priority areas	**SDGs**
A. Sustained and sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth with decent work for all	SDG 1: No poverty SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth SDG 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure SDG 10: Reduced inequalities
B. Climate change	SDG 13: Climate action
C. Sustainable energy	SDG 7: Affordable clean energy
D. Disaster risk reduction	SDG 2: Zero hunger SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities
E. Oceans and seas	SDG 14: Life below water
F. Food security and nutrition	SDG 2: Zero hunger
G. Water and sanitation	SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation
H. Sustainable transportation	SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities
I. Sustainable consumption and production	SDG 12: Responsible consumption and production
J. Management of chemicals and waste, including hazardous waste	SDG 3: Good health and well-being SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation SDG 12: Responsible consumption and production
K. Health and non-communicable diseases	SDG 3: Good health and well-being
L. Gender equality and women's empowerment	SDG 5: Gender equality
M. Social development	SDG 4: Quality education SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions
N. Biodiversity	SDG 14: Life below water SDG 15: Life on land
O. Invasive alien species	SDG 15: Life on land
Means of implementation	
Partnerships	Systemic issues / Multi-stakeholder partnerships
Financing	Finance
Trade	Trade
Capacity-building	Capacity-building
Technology	Technology
Data and Statistics	Systemic issues / Data, monitoring and accountability
Institutional Support for SIDS	Systemic issues / Policy and institutional coherence

Annex I-B

Annex I-A:

Correspondence between the SAMOA Pathway priority areas and the 2030 Agenda (Sustainable Development Goals 1 to 16)


SAMOA Pathway:
SDGs:
A. Sustained and sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth with decent work for all
B. Climate change
C. Sustainable energy
D. Disaster risk reduction
E. Oceans and seas
F. Food security and nutrition
G. Water and sanitation
H. Sustainable transportation
I. Sustainable consumption and production
J. Management of chemicals and waste, including hazardous waste
K. Health and non-communicable diseases
L. Gender equality and women's empowerment
M. Social development
N. Biodiversity
O. Invasive alien species
1. No poverty
2. Zero hunger
3. Good health and well-being
4. Quality education
5. Gender equality
6. Clean water and sanitation
7. Affordable and clean energy
8. Decent work and economic growth
9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure
10. Reduce inequalities
11. Sustainable cities and communities
12. Responsible consumption and production
13. Climate action
14. Life below water
15. Life on land
16 Peace, justice and strong institutions

Note: Goal 17 'Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development' is included in the graph below.

Source: JIU, based on General Assembly resolutions 69/15 and 70/1.

Annex I-B:

Linkages between the means of implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 Agenda (Sustainable Development Goal 17)

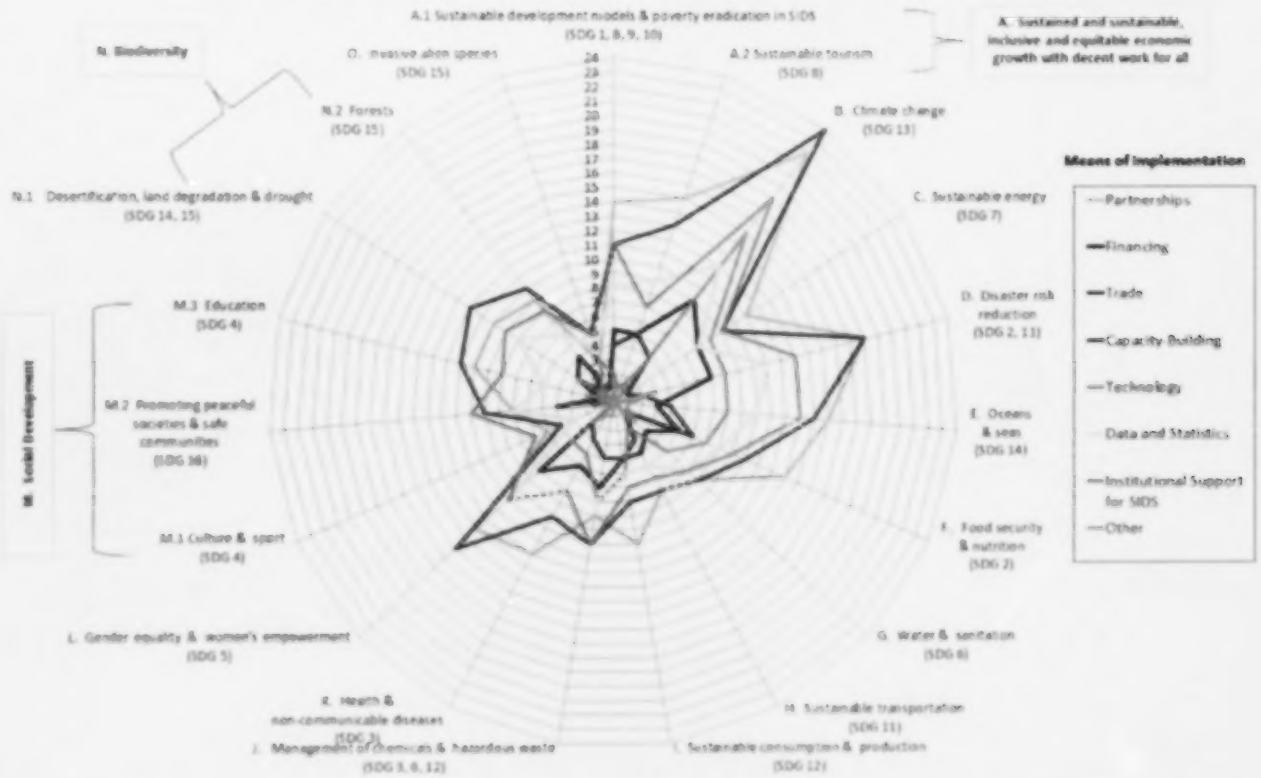
SAMOA Pathway (General Assembly resolution 69/15):

Means of implementation: paras. 96-120

Agenda 2030 (General Assembly resolution 70/1):

Means of implementation and global partnerships: Paras. 17.1-17.19 and 60-71

Annex II-A: SAMOA Pathway – United Nations system and the contribution of multilateral environmental agreements by priority areas and means of implementation, including reference to Sustainable Development Goals



Based on responses from 36 entities

Participating Organizations: DESA, ECA, ESCAP, FAO, IAEA, ICAO, ILO, IMO, ITC, OCHA, OHRLLS, UNAIDS, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNISDR, UNOSSC, UN Women, UNWTO, UPU, WFP, WHO, WIPO, WMO

Multilateral Environmental Agreements: BRS, CBD, DOALOS, Multilateral Fund for Montreal Protocol, Ozone Convention, UNCCD, UNFCCC, WHC

Methodological note: Priority areas and means of implementation correspond to those in the SAMOA Pathway; the number of SIDS partnerships by region was compiled from the SIDS Action Platform. Subpriority areas are indicated in comprehensive brackets in the graph (for example, culture and sport (paras. 80-82), promoting peaceful societies and safe communities (paras. 83-86) and education (paras. 87-88) are included under the priority area "Social development" (paras. 78-88)). Correspondence with SDGs of the 2030 Agenda is indicated together with the SAMOA Pathway.

Note: Annex II-B below complements the information displayed in annex II-A through narrative description of the areas. The information is presented in decreasing order indicating the number of entities contributing to each priority area of the SAMOA Pathway, by means of implementation.

Annex II-B: SAMOA Pathway priority areas ranked by number of entities involved with reference to Sustainable Development Goals

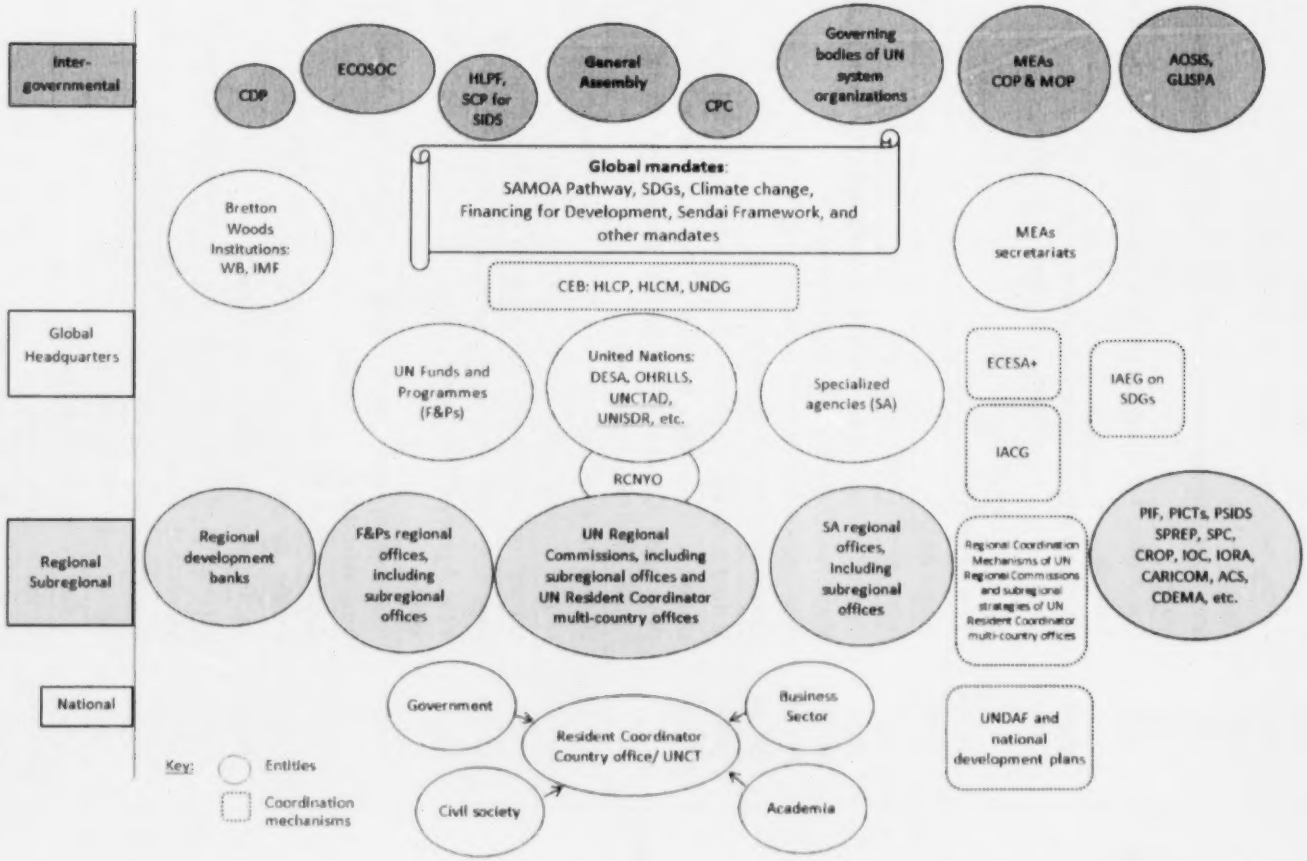
Priority areas ranked by number of entities involved	Means of implementation ranked by number of entities involved	
B. Climate change (SDG 13)	Capacity-building	24
	Partnerships	22
	Institutional support for SIDS	18
	Technology	15
	Data and statistics	12
	Financing	9
	Trade	4
	Other	3
D. Disaster risk reduction (SDG 2, 11)	Partnerships	18
	Capacity-building	18
	Institutional support for SIDS	13
	Data and statistics	11
	Technology	8
	Financing	7
	Other	3
	Trade	2
E. Oceans and seas (SDG 14)	Partnerships	15
	Capacity-building	14
	Institutional support for SIDS	13
	Data and statistics	10
	Technology	8
	Trade	4
	Financing	3
	Other	1
L. Gender equality and women's empowerment (SDG 5)	Capacity-building	15
	Partnerships	13
	Data and statistics	10
	Institutional support for SIDS	10
	Financing	7
	Technology	4
	Trade	2
	Other	2
A.2 Sustainable tourism (SDG 8)	Partnerships	15
	Capacity-building	13
	Data and statistics	9
	Institutional support for SIDS	7
	Financing	5
	Trade	5
	Other	1
	Technology	0

Priority areas ranked by number of entities involved	Means of implementation ranked by number of entities involved	
A.1 Development models in SIDS for the implementation of sustainable development and poverty eradication (SDG 1, 8, 9, 10)	Partnerships	14
	Capacity-building	11
	Institutional support for SIDS	11
	Data and statistics	8
	Financing	5
	Trade	4
	Technology	2
	Other	2
F. Food security and nutrition (SDG 2)	Partnerships	13
	Capacity-building	10
	Institutional support for SIDS	9
	Data and statistics	8
	Technology	7
	Trade	6
	Financing	5
	Other	1
K. Health and non-communicable diseases (SDG 3)	Partnerships	12
	Capacity-building	9
	Data and statistics	7
	Institutional support for SIDS	7
	Financing	5
	Technology	4
	Trade	3
	Other	1
N.1 Desertification, land degradation and drought (SDG 15)	Capacity-building	12
	Partnerships	10
	Institutional support for SIDS	9
	Data and statistics	8
	Financing	3
	Technology	3
	Trade	1
	Other	1
C. Sustainable energy (SDG 7)	Partnerships	11
	Capacity-building	9
	Institutional support for SIDS	9
	Technology	8
	Financing	7
	Data and statistics	7
	Trade	1
	Other	0
M.3 Education (SDG 4)	Capacity-building	11
	Partnerships	10
	Institutional support for SIDS	8
	Data and statistics	5

Priority areas ranked by number of entities involved	Means of implementation ranked by number of entities involved	
	Other	2
	Financing	1
	Trade	0
	Technology	0
I. Sustainable consumption and production (SDG 12)	Partnerships	10
	Capacity-building	7
	Institutional support for SIDS	6
	Technology	5
	Data and statistics	5
	Financing	4
	Trade	4
	Other	0
J. Management of chemicals and waste, including hazardous waste (SDG 3, 6, 12)	Capacity-building	10
	Institutional support for SIDS	10
	Partnerships	8
	Technology	7
	Data and statistics	7
	Financing	6
	Trade	4
	Other	1
M.2 Promoting peaceful societies and safe communities (SDG 16)	Institutional support for SIDS	10
	Capacity-building	9
	Partnerships	7
	Data and statistics	7
	Financing	4
	Technology	3
	Trade	0
	Other	0
N.2 Forests (SDG 15)	Capacity-building	10
	Partnerships	9
	Institutional support for SIDS	8
	Data and statistics	6
	Financing	4
	Trade	2
	Technology	1
	Other	1
G. Water and sanitation (SDG 6)	Partnerships	8
	Capacity-building	8
	Data and statistics	7
	Institutional support for SIDS	7
	Technology	5
	Financing	3
	Other	2
	Trade	1

Priority areas ranked by number of entities involved	Means of implementation ranked by number of entities involved	
H. Sustainable transportation (SDG 11)	Partnerships	7
	Capacity-building	7
	Institutional support for SIDS	6
	Data and statistics	5
	Financing	4
	Trade	3
	Technology	2
	Other	0
M.1 Culture and sport (SDG 4)	Institutional support for SIDS	6
	Partnerships	5
	Capacity-building	4
	Data and statistics	3
	Financing	0
	Trade	0
	Technology	0
	Other	0
O. Invasive alien species (SDG 15)	Capacity-building	5
	Institutional support for SIDS	5
	Data and statistics	4
	Partnerships	3
	Technology	3
	Financing	1
	Trade	1
	Other	0

Annex III: Architectural elements for monitoring and accountability of the SAMOA Pathway and United Nations global mandates



List of abbreviations used in Annex III

Level	Abbreviations	
Intergovernmental	CDP	Committee for Development Policy
	ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council
	HLPF	High-Level Political Forum
	SCP	Steering Committee on Partnerships for Small Island Developing States
	CPC	Committee for Programme and Coordination of the United Nations
	MEAs COPs/MOPs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements Conferences of the Parties / Meeting of the Parties
	AOSIS	Alliance of Small Island States
	GLISPA	Global Island Partnership
Global / Headquarters	WB	World Bank
	IMF	International Monetary Fund
	CEB HLCP HLCM UNDG	United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination High-level Committee on Programmes High-Level Committee on Management United Nations Development Group
	DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
	OHRLLS	United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States
	UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
	UNISDR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
	RCNYO	United Nations Regional Commissions New York Office
	ECESA+	Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs Plus
	IACG	Inter-Agency Consultative Group on Small Island Developing States
	IAEG	Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators
Regional / Subregional	PIF	Pacific Islands Forum
	PICTs	Pacific Island Countries and Territories
	PSIDS	Pacific Small Island Developing States
	SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
	SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
	CROP	Council of the Regional Organizations of the Pacific
	IOC	Indian Ocean Commission
	IORA	Indian Ocean Rim Association
	CARICOM	Caribbean Community
	ACS	Association of Caribbean States
	CDEMA	Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency
National	UNCT	United Nations Country Team
	UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework

Annex IV: Inter-Agency Consultative Group on Small Island Developing States: organizations participating in meetings as at October 2016

United Nations system organizations		Presence in New York*	Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs Plus Member
United Nations	Department for Social and Economic Affairs (DESA)	Headquarters	Yes
	Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS)	Headquarters	Yes
	Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea	Headquarters	No
	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)	Liaison Office	Yes
	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)	Liaison Office**	Yes
	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)	Liaison Office**	Yes
	United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	Liaison Office and Headquarters	Yes
	United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)	Liaison Office and regional offices	Yes
Regional commissions	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)	No***	Yes
	Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)	No***	Yes
	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)	No***	Yes
Funds and programmes	United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	Headquarters	Yes
	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	Headquarters	Yes
	United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)	Headquarters	Yes
	United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	Headquarters	Yes
	United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)****	Headquarters	Yes
Specialized agencies and IAEA	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	Liaison Office and Headquarters VTC	Yes
	International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)	Liaison Office	Yes
	International Labour Organization (ILO)	Liaison Office	Yes
	International Maritime Organization (IMO)	No***	Yes
	International Telecommunication Union (ITU)	No***	Yes

United Nations system organizations		Presence in New York*	Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs Plus Member
	World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)	Liaison Office	Yes
	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	Liaison Office	Yes
	United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)	Liaison Office	Yes
	World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)	Liaison Office	Yes
	World Meteorological Organization (WMO)	Liaison Office	Yes
Other United Nations related entities	United Nations Resident Coordinator Offices	No***	Yes
	United Nations System Secretariat of the Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB)[126]	Headquarters	Observer
	International Trade Centre	Liaison Office	Yes
	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)	Headquarters	Yes
Multilateral environmental agreements	Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	No***	Yes
	Secretariat of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (BRS)	No***	No
OTHER ORGANIZATIONS			
International financial institutions	International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)	New York Office and Headquarters	Yes
	Global Environment Facility (GEF)	No***	Yes
	World Bank (WB)[127]	Liaison Office	Yes
	International Monetary Fund (IMF)	Liaison Office	Yes
Intergovernmental organizations	Caribbean Community Secretariat (CARICOM)	Yes	No
	International Organization for Migration (IOM)	Liaison Office	Yes
	International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)	Liaison Office	No
	Commonwealth Secretariat	No***	No
	Global Island Partnership (GLISPA)	Liaison Office	No

[126] CEB indicated that it does not consider itself as an official member of IACG; some CEB secretariat staff attend IACG meetings on an ad hoc basis.

[127] During the interviews with officials of the World Bank and IMF in their liaison offices in New York, the Inspector was informed that the membership of these two organizations had never been formalized, as such they do not consider themselves to be corporate members of IACG; they participate in meetings on an ad hoc basis.

United Nations system organizations		Presence in New York*	Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs Plus Member
	Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)	No***	No
	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)	No***	No
	Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)	No***	No
	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS)	No***	No
	Pacific Islands Development Forum Secretariat	No***	No
	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)	No***	No
International non-governmental organizations	International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)	Liaison Office	No

Source: Based on information provided by the SIDS unit of DESA in October 2016.

* Either headquarters or liaison office of the Organization.

** Participation by teleconference from respective headquarters.

*** Participation by teleconference.

**** Special unit within UNDP in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3251 (XXIX).

The number of individual participants increased to 133, with broader representation from the United Nations system in the field, with staff members of the Resident Coordinator offices of Samoa, Maldives, Mauritius, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname, Jamaica, Belize, Guyana, Haiti, Dominican Republic and Cuba.

Seven additional staff members of DESA also joined IACG meetings, which will facilitate intradivisional cooperation on SIDS issues.

Annex V: SIDS groups according to United Nations system organizations and international forums

SIDS Groupings	United Nations Secretariat			Regional Commissions				UN Special Agency	Not United Nations System					
	DESA	DPKO/DFS	UNCTAD	ECLAC	ESCWA	ESCAP	ECA	UNESCO	AOSIS	CARICOM	CARICOM IMPACS	PIF	OECS	PIF
AIMS (Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea)														
Bahrain	✗	✓	✗	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cabo Verde	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	-
Comoros*	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	✓	-
Guinea-Bissau*	✓	✓	✗	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	-
Madagascar	✗	✗	✗	-	-	-	-	✗	-	-	-	-	✓	-
Maldives	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-
Mauritius	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	✓	-
Sao Tome and Principe*	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	-
Seychelles	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	✓	-
Singapore	✓	✓	✗	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-
SUB TOTAL:	**8**	**9**	**6**	**-**	**1**	**3**	**6**	**9**	**8**	**-**	**-**	**6**	**4**	**-**
THE CARIBBEAN and Connected Seas														
Anguilla	A	A	✗	A	-	-	-	A	-	O	O	-	-	-
Antigua and Barbuda	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Aruba	A	A	✗	A	-	-	-	A	-	-	-	O	-	-
Bahamas	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Barbados	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Belize	✓	✓	✗	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Bermuda	A	A	✗	A	-	-	-	✗	-	O	-	-	-	-
British Virgin Islands	A	A	✗	A	-	-	-	A	-	O	O	-	-	-
Cayman Islands	A	A	✗	A	-	-	-	A	-	O	O	-	-	-
Cuba	✓	✓	✗	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-
Curaçao	A	A	✗	A	-	-	-	A	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dominica	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Dominican Republic	✓	✓	✗	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-
French Guyana	✗	✗	✗	-	-	-	-	✗	-	-	O	-	-	-
Grenada	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Guadeloupe	A	A	✗	A	-	-	-	✗	-	-	O	-	-	-
Guyana	✓	✓	✗	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Haiti*	✓	✓	✗	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Jamaica	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Martinique	A	A	✗	A	-	-	-	✗	-	-	O	-	-	-
Montserrat	A	A	✗	A	-	-	-	✗	-	✓	O	-	-	-
Sint Maarten	A	A	✗	A	-	-	-	A	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerto Rico	A	A	✗	A	-	-	-	✗	O	-	-	-	-	-
Saint Kitts and Nevis	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Saint Lucia	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Suriname	✓	✓	✗	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Trinidad and Tobago	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Turks and Caicos Islands	A	A	✗	A	-	-	-	✗	-	O	O	-	-	-
United States Virgin Islands	A	A	✗	A	-	-	-	✗	O	-	-	-	-	-
SUB TOTAL:	**16**	**16**	**10**	**16**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**16**	**16**	**15**	**16**	**16**	**-**	**-**
THE PACIFIC														
American Samoa	A	A	✗	-	-	A	-	✗	O	-	-	-	-	SO
Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands	A	A	✗	-	-	A	-	✗	-	-	-	-	-	SO
Cook Islands	A	A	✗	-	-	A	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓
Fiji	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓
French Polynesia	A	A	✗	-	-	A	-	✗	-	-	-	-	-	A
Guam	A	A	✗	-	-	A	-	✗	O	-	-	-	-	SO
Kiribati*	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓
Marshall Islands	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓
Federal State of Micronesia	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓
Nauru	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓
New Caledonia	A	A	✗	-	-	A	-	✗	-	-	-	-	-	A
Niue	A	A	✗	-	-	A	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓
Palau	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓
Papua New Guinea	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓
Samoa	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓
Solomon Islands*	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓
Timor-Leste*	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	SO
Tokelau	✗	✗	✗	-	-	-	-	A	-	-	-	-	-	A
Tonga	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓
Tuvalu*	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓
Vanuatu*	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓
Wallis and Futuna	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	SO
SUB TOTAL:	**13**	**13**	**13**	**-**	**-**	**13**	**-**	**15**	**15**	**-**	**-**	**15**	**-**	**14**
Members	**37**	**38**	**29**	**16**	**1**	**15**	**6**	**40**	**39**	**15**	**16**	**37**	**4**	**14**
Associate Members / (Special) Observers	20	20		13		7		7	5	5	10			8
TOTAL SIDS	**57**	**58**	**29**	**29**	**1**	**22**	**6**	**47**	**44**	**20**	**26**	**37**	**4**	**22**

* Least Developed Country (LDC)

Notes: (A) Associate Member; (O) Observer; (SO) Special Observer
Sources:

United Nations System:
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA): https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/sids/list
UN-OHRLLS: http://unohrlls.org/about-sids/country-profiles/
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD): unctad.org/en/pages/aldc/Small%20Island%20Developing%20States/UNCTAD%C2%B4s-unofficial-list-of-SIDS.aspx
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO): www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/priority-areas/sids/about-unesco-and-sids/sids-list/

Regional commissions:
United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC): www.cepal.org/en/estados-miembros
United Nations Economic Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA): www.unescwa.org/sites/www.unescwa.org/files/uploads/escwamss.pdf
United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP): www.unescap.org/about/member-states
United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA): www.uneca.org/pages/member-states

Non-United Nations:
AOSIS: http://aosis.org/about/members/
Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM): http://caricom.org/membership
Forum of the Caribbean Group of African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States (CARIFORUM): caricom.org/about-http://caricom/who-we-are/our-governance/about-the-secretariat/directorates/cariforum-directorate
African, Caribbean, and Pacific Group of States (ACP): www.acp.int/node/7
Indian Ocean Commission (IOC): http://commissionoceanindien.org/membres/
Pacific Islands Forum (PIF): www.forumsec.org/pages.cfm/about-us/?printerfriendly=true

Annex VI: Overview of actions to be taken by participating organizations on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit

JIU/REP/2016/7

		Intended impact	CEB	United Nations, its funds and programmes																Specialized agencies and IAEA													
				United Nations*	UNAIDS	UNCTAD	ITC	UNDP	UNEP	UNFPA	UN-Habitat	UNHCR	UNICEF	UNODC	UNOPS	UNRWA	UN-Women	WFP	FAO	IAEA	ICAO	ILO	IMO	ITU	UNESCO	UNIDO	UNWTO	UPU	WHO	WIPO	WMO
Report	For action		☐	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☐	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
	For information		☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Recommendation 1		c		L	L	L		L	L	L	L		L	L	L		L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Recommendation 2		c		L	L	L		L	L	L	L		L	L	L		L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Recommendation 3		c		L	L	L		L	L	L	L		L	L	L		L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Recommendation 4		f		L	L	L		L	L	L	L		L	L	L		L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Recommendation 5		f		E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E		E	E	E		E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E
Recommendation 6		f		L	L	L		L	L	L	L		L	L	L		L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Recommendation 7		a		L	L	L		L	L	L	L		L	L	L		L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Recommendation 8		a		L	L	L		L	L	L	L		L	L	L		L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Recommendation 9		a		E																												

Legend: L: Recommendation for decision by legislative organ and governing body E: Recommendation for action by executive head

: Recommendation does not require action by this organization

Intended impact: a: enhanced transparency and accountability b: dissemination of good/best practices c: enhanced coordination and cooperation d: strengthened coherence and harmonization e: enhanced control and compliance f: enhanced effectiveness g: significant financial savings h: enhanced efficiency i: other

* As listed in ST/SGB/2015/3.

United Nations A/72/119/Add.1

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Items 20 (b) and 143 of the provisional agenda*

Sustainable development: follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Joint Inspection Unit

Comprehensive review of United Nations system support for small island developing States: final findings

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the General Assembly his comments and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Comprehensive review of United Nations system support for small island developing States: final findings" (A/72/119).

* A/72/150.

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Summary

The report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Comprehensive review of United Nations system support for small island developing States: final findings" (A/72/119) surveys and analyses system-wide coherence in the adoption of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway.

The present note reflects the views of organizations of the United Nations system on the recommendations provided in the report. The views have been consolidated on the basis of input provided by member organizations of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, which welcomed the report and supported some of its conclusions.

I. Introduction

1. The report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Comprehensive review of United Nations system support for small island developing States: final findings" (A/72/119) surveys and analyses system-wide coherence in the adoption of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (Samoa Pathway). It represents a follow-up to the earlier report of the Unit entitled "Recommendations to the General Assembly of the United Nations for the determination of parameters for a comprehensive review of United Nations system support for small island developing States" (JIU/REP/2015/2).

II. General comments

2. Organizations of the United Nations system welcome the report, which presents valuable findings on system-wide coherence in the implementation of the Samoa Pathway.

3. While the report is comprehensive, it would have benefited from more analysis of United Nations coordination on the ground (e.g., United Nations country teams, resident coordinator systems, United Nations sustainable development frameworks) to reflect the importance of having an integrated regional and streamlined United Nations approach to planning and monitoring for small island developing States in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals.

III. Specific comments on recommendations

Recommendation 1

The governing bodies of the United Nations system and of the multilateral environment agreements, taking into account the findings of the comprehensive review, should give precise system-wide coordinated guidance to the organizations so as to ensure that the priorities of the SAMGA Pathway are mainstreamed in the strategic plans, within the realm of the organizations' mandates, and should encourage all stakeholders to make sufficient and predictable resources available for the effective and accelerated implementation of the Pathway.

4. While the organizations of the United Nations system generally support recommendation 1, noting that is directed to governing bodies, they also suggest that it could benefit from clarification. Specifically, the recommendation that "the governing bodies of the United Nations system ... should give precise system-wide coordinated guidance to the organizations" could be construed to mean that guidance should be given to organizations by all governing bodies, whereas organizations may only in fact receive guidance from their individual governing bodies. Furthermore, the reference to "predictable resources" could present practical impediments to implementing this recommendation for voluntarily funded organizations given that they operate on a needs basis and at the request of host Governments and are therefore not in a position to commit themselves to contributing to "sufficient and predictable resources" for the effective implementation of the Samoa Pathway.

Recommendation 2

The governing bodies of the United Nations system should ensure that the strategic plans and work programmes of the system organizations include

specific objectives related to the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, within the realm of their respective mandates, to be measured against a set of established key performance indicators to monitor and report on the achievements.

5. Organizations support recommendation 2, acknowledging that it is directed at governing bodies. It was noted that organizations align their strategic results to their capacities and strengths and therefore support can be provided within overall strategic objectives without stand-alone "specific objectives" related to the implementation of the Samoa Pathway.

Recommendation 3

The governing bodies of the United Nations system, in adopting the strategic plans and work programmes of the organizations, should encourage the organizations to ensure that the activities in support of sustainable development of SIDS, within the realm of the mandate of each organization, are aligned with the regional and national priorities identified by the Governments of those States, regional organizations and SIDS development partners, so as to foster the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway as the blueprint of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of SIDS.

6. Organizations support recommendation 3, acknowledging that it is directed at governing bodies.

Recommendation 4

The governing bodies of the United Nations system should request the organizations to coordinate the planning and implementation of their capacity-building activities in close consultation with the small island developing States and all partners for development so as to strengthen effectiveness and efficiency in providing support to achieve the goals defined in the SAMOA Pathway, while avoiding saturation of the absorptive capacity of SIDS at the country level.

7. Organizations support recommendation 4, acknowledging that it is directed at governing bodies. It was suggested that organizations may wish to be guided by their strategic alignment to target 17.9 of the Sustainable Development Goals, regarding the strengthening of country capacity to implement the Goals, whereby organizations can focus on sectors in which they have a core competency that is recognized by national stakeholders and partners in the country context.

Recommendation 5

The executive heads of the United Nations system organizations should ensure the participation of their organizations in the process led by the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development to actively contribute to addressing the specificity of SIDS as a special case with tailor-made solutions, and should also ensure that new parameters of eligibility are designed for better access to financing for development for SIDS.

8. Organizations of the United Nations system support recommendation 5; however, it was noted that proposals and discussions within the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development are bound by the commitments of Member States in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development. In addition, organizations look to the Department of

Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, the convener of the Task Force, to position the concerns of small island developing States in the agenda of the Task Force as and when appropriate.

Recommendation 6

The governing bodies of the United Nations system organizations should encourage the allocation of predictable multi-year funding to facilitate the effective implementation of programmatic activities in support of the small island developing States, based on needs assessments prepared by the United Nations system organizations in consultation with SIDS and their relevant partners.

9. Noting that recommendation 6 is directed at governing bodies, organizations of the United Nations system support the recommendation inasmuch as they agree that long-term predictable funding supports effective and efficient development. However, there are concerns regarding the concept of funding that is "based on needs assessments prepared by the United Nations system organizations in consultation with SIDS and their relevant partners" since in some cases this could conflict with an organization's own assessment mechanisms as approved by its governing body. Furthermore, it was noted that in recent years the level and duration of funding from donors has been less predictable, which has consequences for how some organizations plan their work and commit resources to support work in programme countries, including small island developing States. Therefore, some organizations, particularly those that are voluntarily funded, face practical impediments to implementing this recommendation as drafted since they are not in a position to commit to predictable multi-year funding.

Recommendation 7

The legislative and governing bodies of the United Nations system organizations should ensure, based on the ongoing work of the United Nations Statistical Commission and, when relevant, on the work of the inter-agency forums and expert groups created to advise Member States, that the specificity of SIDS is explicitly considered in defining the elements of monitoring and accountability frameworks to report on progress made on the Sustainable Development Goals, so that processes and indicators are adapted to their needs and priorities identified at the national and regional levels.

10. Organizations support recommendation 7, noting that it is directed at legislative and governing bodies. They note that, while the Sustainable Development Goals are aspirational global targets and all Member States are expected to adapt them according to national context, and while monitoring and accountability frameworks reporting on progress made regarding the Goals should be adapted to all contexts, including those of small island developing States, at the same time those States face specific additional challenges associated with climate change and disaster risk reduction that go beyond the global targets and indicators of the Goals. Therefore, organizations recognize the special case for development of small island developing States and support the need for tailored approaches in those States that reflect their unique context, opportunities and constraints. Support could include enhancing capacity-building in data and statistics, where appropriate, to help small island developing States to overcome data challenges that can reduce their ability to engage in monitoring processes.

Recommendation 8

The governing bodies of the United Nations system organizations should coordinate their efforts in designing monitoring and accountability frameworks and tools adapted to the capacity of SIDS to monitor and report on the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and other sustainable development-related global mandates, while avoiding the burden of multiple reporting frameworks.

11. Organizations support recommendation 8, noting that it is directed at governing bodies, and as for recommendation 7 they note that monitoring and accountability frameworks reporting on progress made regarding the Sustainable Development Goals should be adapted to all contexts, including those of small island developing States. However, organizations also recognize the burden that monitoring and reporting frameworks can have for those States and many United Nations system entities stand ready to support streamlining indicators specific to small island developing States and, where applicable, to support capturing development progress and gaps in those States. It was also noted that coordination across the United Nations system occurs through the United Nations sustainable development frameworks, which highlight the contribution of the United Nations system to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Samoa Pathway.

Recommendation 9

The Secretary-General should present to the General Assembly, as part of his report on follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, a summary of actions taken and planned to strengthen the coordination and complementarity of the work of DESA and OHRLLS in support of SIDS.

12. Recommendation 9 is supported by the Secretariat, which will continue to strengthen internal coordination and foster synergies for the benefit of the implementation of the Samoa Pathway. It was noted that this recommendation should be included in the relevant resolution for adoption by Member States in order to include contributions of the members of the Inter-Agency Consultative Group on Small Island Developing States.